

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 20th July, at "Letcomb," Bukit Timah Road, Singapore, the wife of JOHN W. HAFENDEN, of a son.

On the 25th July, at Earnbank, Shanghai, the wife of W. EWALD, of a daughter.

On the 29th July, at 3, Victoria View, Kowloon, the wife of H. BATHURST, of a son.

On the 1st August, at the Peak Hospital, the wife of J. F. MILLER, of a daughter (stillborn).

MARRIAGES.

On the 9th July, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, by the Rev. W. H. C. Dunkerley, M.A., PHILIP, son of the late Wm. BIBBY, of Raub, to LIZZIE, daughter of the late J. A. NILSSON, of Rokewood Junction, Victoria.

On the 20th July, 1901, at H. I. G. M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, before Consul-General Dr. Knappe, and afterwards at "Wulften," No. 1, Jessfield Road, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. Snethlage, by the Rev. Pastor Lic. Hackmann, ALFRED SIEMSEN, of Tsingtao, to ADELE GALLES, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. GALLES, of Hamburg, formerly of Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On the 21st July, 1901, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, of peritonitis, JULES ARRANGER, aged 47 years.

On the 22nd July, at No. 8 of 3, Kitano-cho, Nichome, Japan, HERMANN MARCUS, aged 33 years.

On the 23rd July, 1901, at Seoul, Corea, WILLIAM DUFFLON HUTCHISON, aged 43 years.

On the 28th July, at No. 10, Mosque Terrace, MARIA JOSEFA DE SELAVIA ALVES, the beloved wife of J. L. de Selavia ALVES, of the Harbour Office, aged 54 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 28th June arrived, per M. M. steamer *Oceanien*, on the 29th July (31 days); the Canadian mail of the 9th July arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 30th July (21 days); and the English mail of the 5th July arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Massilia*, on the 2nd August (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A Vladivostock despatch states that the forts there were repaired lately, new large guns being mounted.

The London *Gazette* published last week an order in council for the Government of Weihaiwei under a Commissioner.

H.M.S.S. *Eclipse*, *Pigmy* and *Daphne* left Hongkong harbour hurriedly under sealed orders on Wednesday night. The *Eclipse* and *Daphne*, with the *Glory*, were at Amoy yesterday.

Things are reported, from German sources, to be looking black on the Manchuria-Corean border. The Russians thought at first to be able to put down the risings that occurred with a couple of regiments. But now they have nearly 20,000 troops there. Great secrecy is observed as to the movement of the troops and engagements fought.

A disastrous fire broke out at 1 o'clock on the 26th inst., in the centre of the foreign business quarter at Foochow. The hongs burnt were those of Gilman & Co.; John Gittins & Co., old and new; Odell & Co.; Robert Anderson & Co.; the Chartered Bank of India, etc.; F. Cave Thomas & Co.; Fraser, Ramsay & Co.; R. R. Westall; and considerable Chinese property.

Captain E. G. Pretymann, Civil Lord of the Admiralty, replied to a question by Mr. Gibson Bowles in the House of Commons last week, to the effect that it has been decided to retain the present site of the Royal Naval dock at Hongkong, although the engineer's opinion is unfavourable. £150,000 have already been spent by the Government, and they are unable to consent to suspend the work.

A Tokyo telegram to the *Mainichi* says:—It was previously arranged that the allied troops should be withdrawn from North China on or before the 1st of July, a force being left by each Power for garrison duty, but the condition of affairs in China made it impossible to carry out the arrangement. Recently another decision was made, according to which the troops will leave within five days from the 1st September next.

According to *L'Echo de Chine*, the news from Shanai is of the worst. Tung Fuhsiang and Prince Tuan are scouring the country with numbers of troops under their command. There is no news of the Belgian missionaries in Mongolia. Li Hung-chang has been asked to furnish an assurance that they are safe, but the Chinese plenipotentiary refused to give a precise answer on the subject. It must be stated, however, that no confirmation whatever of this bad news from Shanai seems to have come from other than French sources.

According to Dr. Morrison, the *Times* correspondent, the French are pressing Li Hung-chang for the concession of a direct railway from Tientsin to Paotingfu.

The *Jeh-jeh Sin-wen* of Tientsin states that there is some likelihood that Prince Su will be selected by the Throne to go to England to offer the condolences of the Emperor of China to King Edward in connection with the death of the late Great Queen, and also to offer congratulations on his Majesty's accession to the Throne. Prince Su is quite a young man, of progressive views, and says the *N.-C. Daily News*, has been often heard to express the desire of visiting Europe for the purpose of "borrowing western civilisation and sciences for his native land."

It is officially reported from Hsian, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, that the Empress Dowager has appointed in a special decree Lien Fang (Manchu) and Hsu Shou-p'eng as Vice-Presidents of the Wai-wu-pu or Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is to take the place of the obsolete Tsungli Yamén. With reference to the Manchu Vice-President Lien Fang, he was last year a "Chang Ching" or First-class Secretary of the Tsungli Yamén, whilst the Chinese Vice President, Hsu Shou-p'eng, was at the same period Chinese Minister to Corea. When Li Hung-chang went up to Peking last autumn to conduct peace negotiations both Lien Fang and Hsu Shou-p'eng were attached to Li's staff as secretaries. It is not yet known who are to be the Presidents of the new Foreign Office.

As already noted in these columns, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, Viceroy Li Hung-chang's pet troops consisting of his fellow provincials of Anhwei, under General Li Pên-yuan, have sadly disappointed His Excellency, who when sending them off some 8,000 odd strong, the other day, to crush the allied villages, expressed confidently his opinion that the malcontents would soon be scattered and disbanded by General Lü Pên-yuan. An official dispatch from Peking to the local mandarins now states that Viceroy Li Hung-chang, finding the allied villagers too strong for summary measures, has ordered up the troops of General Chiang Kuai-ti and those of General Ma to assist General Lü Pên-yuan, who is hard pushed by the enemy. It will perhaps be remembered that these Anhwei troops acted similarly during the war with Japan in 1894-5.

Lord Cranborne, replying to questions in the House, said that he had no reason to believe that any Government desired to retain its troops permanently at Shanghai. With regard to the Tientsin dispute, the British Ambassador had been informed by Russia that pending the question's decision the *status quo* shall remain, enabling the Railway administration to operate without Russian obstruction. Later, Lord Cranborne said that the Government recognised that its duty in China was soon to enter on serious negotiations about the improvement of waterways on the inland navigation route, the *lekin* question in general, and the protection of foreign residents in China and their right to live in the walled cities. Referring to Tientsin, Lord Cranborne is reported to have said that, though the Russian military authorities had not shown a careful defence of the agreement, occasionally the Russian Government had received Great Britain's representations in a different spirit—whatever this may mean.

THE HOPEFUL SIDE OF THE SITUATION.

(Daily Press, 30th July.)

There is not much doubt that, little satisfactory as have been hitherto the results of European interference in North China, there are forces at work tending to bring about an amelioration, none the less important that they are silent. One of these forces is the Emperor himself: it seems in fact to be the growing opinion that this pretended insignificant boy—whose supercession in September, 1898, was apparently so easily managed that the very act was taken as a testimony to his unfitness to rule—has in circumstances which would have caused any ordinary man to succumb, not only succeeded in preserving his life in the midst of a clique to any one of whom his death would have been a matter of relief, but has shown himself the possessor of so much good sense that little by little his greatest enemies have come to look to him as the one in the crowd capable of giving practical advice in the dilemma in which they had placed themselves. Doubtless in this he has been aided by circumstances over which he had no control. The attempt to govern China from so ill adapted a capital as Hsian has in the first place utterly broken down: it is true it saved the Court from the direct influence of the foreigner, but it raised other difficulties which more than counterbalanced this doubtful advantage, in the impossibility of having its orders carried out. The edicts issued were treated with respect due to their having emanated from the Imperial Government, it is true, but the Court soon discovered that, though in outward form they were obeyed, the Viceroys exercised a more than usual discretion in their carrying out. For the most part indeed, they were quietly shelved, and that in such a way that the Court found itself helpless to interfere without producing actual conflict. The Court, ignorant of the conditions of the locality, had been fondly believing that in moving to Shansi they were about to enter a land of plenty; but here again their hopes were doomed to disappointment. They in fact only arrived to find the whole of Shansi in a state of famine, and a famine all the worse that, owing to the steps they had themselves taken in cutting off all communication, there was actually no means of relieving the distress, which instead of being helped by the expenditure of the Court was actually made worse by the failure of the local crops. This condition has this year been aggravated by the very peculiar weather of the early summer, the city and the surrounding country being deeply flooded, so that there is no reason to believe that the Court is other than anxious to get out of the doomed city. In these circumstances, the Emperor seems to have been the only one of the crowd who has preserved his commonsense, and it is now pretty well known that he has been pressing for return at once to Peking. This step, it is equally well known, has been bitterly distasteful to the Dowager Tsz'hi, who rightly sees in this measure the destruction of her own misused influence. Still, even the Dowager herself has commenced to see that it has become actually necessary to leave the city, but where to go is a difficulty she has been unable to solve. K'aifengfu has been spoken of—the more so as at various periods it has served as the capital of one or other of the petty kingdoms into which China has been at various periods divided. K'aifeng is, however, still less adapted for a capital than Hsian. Mr. BIGHAM, the last traveller who has visited it, describes it as of "the regular northern

"type of city, with huge clay walls of twenty miles circuit, massive battlements and beetling gates—like an enormous factory—and inside vast empty spaces that are often under water. The streets are broad and deep either in mud or dust; the shops are mere booths with few wares in them, and there is a general air of neglect and decay about the whole place." The province of Honan is one of the poorest in China, and is in these modern days made worse by constant inundations of the Yellow River, so that even the local mandarins are generally, he tells us, housed in some dusty, tumble-down old *yamen*, with broken doors and crumbling walls. From a foreign point of view there is little to be feared from a visit of the Court to Honan. But there are other and uglier rumours about. The Court in its present state of penury demands some millions of taels for its return to Peking; and it seems incredible that the same individuals whose flight to Hsian was effected at the cost of the little money the individuals who composed it had in their pockets or could raise on charity, should need such extravagance on its return. And this raises the strangest point of all: the money is really required for defence. There is no reason now to believe that the Dowager is desirous of getting rid of the Emperor; rather, on his safety depends her last hope of a restoration to power and influence; but there are others whom in her moment of triumph she called in to share her joys who have not the same desire, and who would gladly see the last of both Dowager and Emperor. The nefarious Prince T'UAN and his henchman, the barbarian TUNG FU-SIANG, have been at the dictation of the Powers hounded from Court, and are notoriously in open rebellion. That there exists a plot to attack and kill the Emperor on his way back from K'aifeng, there is no doubt whatever; and the Dowager, who was born in 1835, hesitates to place her precious self in jeopardy. Besides, the usual dangers of a journey through the impoverished province of Honan at the best of times are sufficient to deter any ordinary woman of her age from contemplating the journey with other than misgiving. Under present conditions with a famished people, and amid ultra-tropical heat, the journey might well frighten the healthiest. There is then no reason altogether to discredit the various rumours that have of late been prevalent, and to all appearance these rumours of the intended return of the Court have this foundation—that it is sincerely desired by the Emperor, and is not actively opposed by the Dowager, who has, there is some reason to believe, come to see the folly of her previous action. But though by this time the Dowager doubtless sees that she has committed a serious offence against the common code of nations, she also knows that if outside nations are willing to condone the past, there are not wanting those at home who attribute to her the failure of their plots; and who if they had her in their power would revenge on her their failure. The presence and support of the Emperor is the only guarantee she possesses for her own life: she has got into Hsian, but she knows not how to get out: nor can she stay much longer. The great provincials are willing enough to guarantee the safety of the Emperor, but none will trouble themselves to care for hers; then, worst of all, there is hanging over her the effect of the plot of the New Year. It seemed an easy enough thing then to place the son of Prince T'UAN in the position of successor to, if not actually to place him on, the throne; but in the hour of trial not only has he proved himself of so vicious a

disposition that he has already become an impossibility, but he has been removed by his father—himself an open rebel—beyond her control. Fortunately the Emperor, though apparently not a man of strong nerve, is one of caution, and seems quite capable of profiting by the situation. On the whole, while it is impossible to forecast the outcome of the present peculiar position, it would be premature to pronounce it hopeless, and it seems that the whole course of affairs points to the fact, which we have often emphasised, that the only course likely to lead to a successful issue is to insist on dealing directly with the Emperor in person. Possibly the mission of the Emperor's younger brother to Europe may be at last a means of making the ill-informed foreign offices of Europe wake up to this fact. At all events, the impression made by the personality of the young man during his few days' stay at Shanghai seems to have been altogether favourable; he confirmed that impression during his brief visit here; and it was evident that he possesses many of the best qualities of his brother in his tact and prudent reserve in an exceedingly delicate position.

THE LOCATION OF THE NAVAL YARD IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 29th July.)

Were there always finality about decisions of the Admiralty—a statement which from past experience it would not be safe to make—we might now take it for granted that the Naval Yard in Hongkong is definitely fixed for the future on the situation which it at present occupies. As matters stand, there may still be a remote possibility of the Admiralty's reconsideration of the verdict which has just been telegraphed out to us. We think, however, that it would be extremely unwise to build any hopes upon this possibility. The whole question is far more complicated than it looks at first sight. From the point of view of the civilian resident, the arguments in favour of removing the Naval Yard bodily to Kowloon, and getting possession also of the military authorities' land which lies on Queen's Road, are overwhelming. Above all things, Victoria now wants space. Here, near the very centre of the Praya, is a large tract of ground offering the best possible sites for building purposes. When the new Praya East extension has been completed and the tramways are running, the naval and military land will remain an inconvenient barrier to the free passage along the harbourfront of the city. The scheme of which some details were recently given in the Press, by which this barrier was to be removed and one continuous frontage, with wide streets, was to be established, offered a solution of the difficulty which could not but appeal to the public mind. As we wrote in June, when first the proposal became known, the effect of the scheme on the development of the Colony and in particular on the city of Victoria could not fail to be enormous. Engineers of wide experience have declared themselves in favour of the proposal, and naval authorities of the highest standing have not been wanting to advocate the wholesale transfer of the naval establishment to some site on the mainland. With so strong a case for the adoption of the scheme, it will be deduced that there must be some very serious drawbacks which hinder its adoption. This, in fact, is so, and the argument against the transfer of the Naval Yard to any other site may be stated very briefly.

In connection with the decision as to a suitable site for a Naval Dockyard and

works in this Colony, there are two sets of considerations, engineering and strategical. From the engineers' point of view it would not be hard to select more than one better site than that between Queen's Road and the harbour. The engineers concerned in the present extension works are, we are told by our London correspondent, against the retention of the present ground. Over in Kowloon, as has been pointed out by writers of weight, there are at least two situations which from the engineering point of view offer far greater facilities than are now available. There is the question of expense, of course—£150,000, we learn, have already been spent by the Government. The sale of the ground, however, would, at the price which land in a central situation now commands, dispose of this objection. The waste of time involved by abandonment of the present operations and a recommencement on a totally different site is more serious, but this might be faced if the compensations from the new location of the Dock were enormous. From the engineers' standpoint, the rejected scheme is an admirable one.

There remains the strategical side of the question, and here it is that the whole strength of the case against any transfer lies. The present situation of the Dockyard is such that it is admirably sheltered from attack. Only two channels approach it, both strongly guarded. A bombardment from the mainland hardly enters into the realms of possibility, and to such docks at Yaumati or Kowloon would be still more vulnerable. From the sea, that is to say from the south side of the island, it would be almost impossible to damage the present Naval Yard. Guns are not constructed with the trajectory requisite to train them on to it, the height of the Peak and the other hills making an excellent barrier. A chance shot might possibly be dropped in the vicinity, but it would be the inhabitants of Kowloon who would have most to fear from an attempted bombardment of this nature from the South. On the other hand a site on the Kowloon peninsula, whether on the east or west, would not be thus naturally defended against a naval assault, and a situation at Yaumati would in addition be exposed, owing to the numerous channels in its vicinity, to torpedo attacks. The present Government has been severely criticised for the alleged exposed location of the new works at Gibraltar, and must therefore be all the more loth to incur further reproof on this score. The problem of rendering docks on the mainland defensible is one which might well prove impossible of solution. On this ground the Admiralty can hardly be expected to yield to the transfer scheme, admirable as it is for the improvement of Victoria. There is thus an apparent conflict between the naval and civil interests; but with regard to this it must be remembered that the maintenance of Hongkong as the leading naval station of the Far East, with a safe dock for warships, is not only vital to the Empire as a whole, but also to those who have elected to carry on their professions under its protection. Destroy Hongkong's naval strength and you strike a damaging blow at the growth and commerce of the place as well. Such an argument as this is hard to meet, and much as we must all desire the improvement of the city on the lines of the scheme which has just been rejected, the naval authorities must be above all entitled to the principal voice in the matter. As for the removal of the military offices, etc., from the neighbourhood of the Naval Yard, that is quite a different matter. Such a step is to be

recommended from many points of view. It would not, however, offer the community so much ground as would seem probable at first sight, for the retention of the Yard where it now is will probably involve the Navy taking over at least a portion of what the Military would give up. In any case it appears that we must resign ourselves to the continuance of the existing interruption of the Praya frontage by the presence there of the Naval Yard, and in the circumstances we cannot well protest.

THE HONGKONG GOVERNMENT AND THE PETITION.

(Daily Press, 1st August.)

We have reproduced already part of the blue-book just issued by the local Government with regard to the Sanitary condition of this Colony and the consequent petition of over 1,000 residents to the Colonial Office; and we publish three more letters to-day. The remainder of the blue-book does not easily lend itself to quotation, owing to the length of the memoranda attached and to the fact that partial quotation might appear to do an injustice to those who drew them up. We propose, however, to consider a few points of the Government case as set forth in the blue-book.

We may take first H.E. the Governor's letter of the 5th July to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which, though written, as Sir HENRY A. BLAKE himself states in his letter of the 13th July, before he had seen the Petition, nevertheless contains at least one point which has an important bearing on some of the arguments in that document. For the rest, the letter is a plainly written account of the recent plague epidemic, and to one statement only can strong objection be made. That statement is contained in the words in section 6:—"The public Press published letters and articles that increased the alarm," etc. On behalf of the public Press we must resent this imputation. Whatever panic there was this spring was most certainly not due to the action of the Press. Such letters as appeared were mostly of the nature of complaints against the way in which the work of fighting the plague was or was not carried out. No articles of an alarmist character were published in the papers of this Colony. H.E., we would venture to suggest, is treating outspokenness of language as though it were language calculated to cause undue alarm. When we consider that thirty Europeans cases and eleven European deaths have occurred during the epidemic it is surprising that there has been so little panic among the European residents. It will hardly be contended that the alarm among the Chinese was excited by the public Press. The point, however, to which we desired to refer in the letter under consideration is contained in the remark in section 7, when H.E. says: "I have no reason to believe that the Sanitary Staff are not doing their duty faithfully, and if they are, then with the large powers given to the Medical Officer of Health there should not be in Hongkong a house unfit for habitation, nor should any house be permitted to continue in an insanitary state." It has been amply pointed out in these columns that it is not on the side of attention to duty, but in the matter of numbers that the Sanitary Staff is lacking. Hongkong is in this respect undermanned, compared with large towns at home, though sanitation is an even more important point in the East than it is in the United Kingdom. With regard to the statement that with the powers given to the Medical Officer of

Health, there should not be a house unfit for habitation in Hongkong, how does this square with the admission in section 12 that it may be advisable, in certain events, to "employ a very large number of men" (not surely our present meagre staff, "in February, and disinfect the whole city quarter by quarter"; while if that does not succeed, "the question will remain what structural changes shall be carried out, and what property resumed, destroyed, or rebuilt"—a question which involves property worth from £100,000 to £150,000 per acre, as His Excellency points out in section 13, wherein he appeals for the advice of an eminent sanitarian on the point?

Next in order we may take the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART's letter to the Chamber of Commerce on the 18th ult. This encloses two reports, by the Hon. W. CHATHAM and the Hon. F. H. MAY respectively, on the measures taken to give effect to Mr. CHADWICK's recommendations of 1882. H.E. the Governor thinks, the letter says, that the two reports will "satisfy the community that the Government has not lagged behind but has rather been in advance of local public opinion in this important matter." The backbone of the case presented in the reports is supplied by the Hon. F. H. MAY, who exercises his ingenuity in collecting the cases in which the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, supported by the public Press, have in the past opposed Government measures of Sanitary improvement, the implication being that the good Government has been prevented by the bad Unofficials and still more wicked Press from making Hongkong a healthy town. By a convenient use of asterisks in his main quotation from the *Daily Press* of the 26th September, 1887, the Captain Superintendent of Police apparently thinks to clinch his argument as to the opposition to the Government's measures for the relief of overcrowding. He quotes the following words:—"One of the chief grievances of residents in this Colony, Chinese and Europeans alike, is the great scarcity of house accommodation and the consequent high rents. . . . This grievous state of things the Government proposes to make worse and worse by enforcing laws against overcrowding. Every person is to have 300 cubic feet of space to sleep in, although even supposing the house accommodation were amply sufficient to afford this space many of the Chinese would probably prefer more company and less room. . . . Less than 300 feet is not dangerous in a climate like Hongkong when people keep the doors and windows open all the year round. On this point the Government has shown itself absolutely impervious to reason."

The Hon. F. H. MAY having omitted to quote the very paragraph of the whole article which explains the opposition to the Government's proposals, we will submit it to our readers, official and unofficial, and leave it to their sense of fairness to say whether the memorandum gives a true picture of our attitude in 1887. We wrote:—

"The Bill says every adult is to have 300 cubic space of feet whenever and in whatever district the Governor chooses to proclaim. In the great scarcity of houses the enforcement of such a regulation could not fail to cause great hardship and suffering. Men already crushed down with the exorbitant rents they now have to pay, would be turned out of their houses and have to seek fresh quarters, for which they would have to pay still more. The pressure would exert itself upward, through the better class of Chinese, until

"it was felt, as indeed it already is, by the European community. Many European houses are even now occupied by the Chinese, and if this Bill becomes law, still more will be so occupied, and the Europeans will have to bid one against the other whenever a house becomes vacant. Only a few weeks ago rents were put up 20 per cent. on a large number of European houses owned by one firm, and the same movement is going on in all directions. Considering that the population is daily increasing, the outlook in the matter of house accommodation is alarming, unless the Government take some energetic steps to open up more building sites. The point is one the Government has under its consideration, and we believe they do not underestimate the gravity of the situation. But whatever relief may be afforded, it can only come gradually, and some years must necessarily pass before the stringency of house accommodation begins to slacken. Can anything be more ill-judged than to introduce a measure against overcrowding in the height of a crisis like the present, when people are compelled by the irresistible force of circumstances to crowd together?"

Earlier in the same article we said: "There is not plenty of space, and to enact that a man shall have at least 300 feet when there is not 300 feet for him is absurd."

This then is a sample of the way in which the Hon. F. H. MAY thinks it right to quote and refrain from quoting. He will scarcely, we imagine, contend that it is ingenuous. But of course the Secretary of State for the Colonies has no time to turn up the context of the Hon. F. H. MAY's quotations.

(Daily Press, 2nd August.)

We drew attention yesterday to the way in which the Hon. F. H. MAY, in his report on the measures giving effect to Mr. CHADWICK's recommendations of 1882, misrepresented the attitude of this paper toward a proposal of the Government in 1887. A very superficial reference to the file of the *Daily Press* will show that we have constantly been urging on the Government the necessity of sanitary reforms. This does not, of course, mean that we have always taken the same view as the Government on the measures to be adopted. In 1887, as we showed yesterday, the Government was proposing to enforce measures against overcrowding without providing for the housing of the ejected inhabitants. We urged the necessity of the opening up of new building sites, before turning out the occupants of the too few existing houses. We still are suffering from the lack of building sites and it has all through been left to private enterprise to provide access to more ground where it is needed. The new tramway scheme is but a further example of this. The Hon. F. H. MAY's case against the Press as anti-sanitarian breaks down altogether. It would doubtless be very convenient if he could make out that the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, backed by the Press, had been a constant obstruction in the progress of the Government toward sanitary reform. We are not called upon to defend the attitude of the Unofficial Members either in the past or the present; they represent little more than one section of the residents in the Colony, and that is the section which would naturally be least inclined to welcome changes involving so much expenditure of money. It seems to us that the Hon.

F. H. MAY's defence amounts to this, that the Government in the past has been afraid of the landlords, and in spite of a perpetual majority of Official Members on the Council has consented not to do its duty by the Colony in sanitary matters. In this case the Government has little cause to thank its champion for the manner in which he whitewashes its character.

We may now turn to the long memorandum signed jointly by the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, the Hon. W. CHATHAM, and the Hon. F. H. MAY. This professes to be an answer to the Petition itself. After referring to the enclosures of which we have already spoken, the memorandum says (section 3):—"Anyone who reads these statements cannot fail to see that whilst the Government of this Colony has realised how important and necessary it is that the sanitation of Hongkong should be placed in a satisfactory state, and has spent large sums of money with a view to improve its sanitary condition, it has had to contend against many difficulties, not the least of which has been that opposition to Sanitary Legislation which is described in the review above." The memorandum then proceeds to take the arguments of the Petition *seriatim*, with the object of showing that all but three of Mr. CHADWICK's recommendations have been carried out, and that only two of the others might have been carried out earlier. On the way, Drs. AYRES, LOWSON, and CLARK are treated with scant respect by the Government in whose service they have been or still are, and the implication is conveyed that the Sanitary Board, not the Government, is responsible for any remissness in the matter of sanitary inspection. We would like to call Captain-Superintendent MAY's attention to what he said on this question at the Sanitary Board meeting on the 19th July, 1894. But doubtless a change of view in an official is more commendable than it is in a mere ordinary individual. In an airy way the question about limewashing in the villages is dismissed, the memorandum saying: "It must not be forgotten that under the existing law a householder whose dwelling is found to be in a dirty condition can be required to cleanse and limewash it within a week." This provision seems to those who drew up the memorandum sufficient to ensure cleanliness in villages without the biennial compulsory limewashing enforced in the City. It must not be forgotten, we should rather add, that some of the villages were severely attacked by plague this year, which seems to show that something was wrong with them. But we suspect that some of the officials have by this time resigned themselves to the idea that the plague is simply a "visitation of God" which it is little use to try to combat by ordinary human means. On this ground we can understand the protests in the memorandum as to the sufficiency of the medical and sanitary staffs of Hongkong. The statements in the recent Petition about the inadequacy of the medical equipment of Kennedytown Hospital are "misleading," we are told. These are the reasons. There is Tung Wa Hospital for Chinese only. There were never more than 22 cases under treatment at once at Kennedytown during the late epidemic. The Medical Officer has to assist him two European wardmasters, two trained European nurses, and one trained Chinese wardmaster. The Medical Officer never has resided at the Hospital, but he is in telephonic communication. The Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer advised that ample trained assistance was on the spot, without the constant attendance of the Medical Officer at the Hospital.

We accept the statement that the Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer made the latter remark; but we know as a fact that several other doctors of at least equal ability have maintained the opposite and that they have themselves seen after their patients when strictly speaking these should have been in the hands of the Hospital Staff. There are certain crises in plague when the responsibility for drastic action can only be expected from the doctor himself. Moreover, it is known that Dr. THOMSON himself has been in ill health and would have gone on leave could he have been spared. It is a piece of good fortune which has enabled the Kennedytown authorities to get through the epidemic without a breakdown, and had such occurred the scandal would not have been the fault of the staff, but of the Government which shut its eyes persistently to that staff's inadequacy. As to the Sanitary Staff, the writers of the memorandum are satisfied to point out that the number of Sanitary inspectors was fixed at twenty by a Select Committee of the Sanitary Board in 1899, that there is also a highly trained Chief Inspector of Nuisances (who has left on account of ill-health), and that we have a larger staff than they have at Newcastle. They also mention that three trained Inspectors were applied for early this year and two more recently. None of these remarks furnish any excuse for the fact that we have not had a staff sufficient to cope with what has been asked of them and that in consequence there has been a remissness, which the Government is content to put on to the shoulders of the Sanitary Board.

At the end of their memorandum Messrs. STEWART LOCKHART, CHATHAM and MAY say: "In conclusion we cannot refrain from expressing our regret that the Petition as drafted is calculated to mislead. Any one who reads it, without local knowledge and unacquainted with the real facts of the case, could not but receive the erroneous impression that in Hongkong sanitation has been at a standstill for the last twenty years and that nothing has been done or attempted to improve the sanitary condition of the Colony. That such an impression would be entirely erroneous is shown by the facts we have adduced. It is unfortunate that the Petition as worded is not more worthy of the good cause—the improved sanitation of Hongkong—it purports to serve. Every resident who has the true welfare of the Colony at heart must be in favour of that cause, and it would indeed be a benighted Government that refused to do all in its power to advance it. But the sanitary improvement of the Colony in the future is not likely to be secured by misrepresenting its sanitary history in the past." We fear that the talk of misrepresentation comes ill after what we have seen of the Government case against the Petition. Nor do we imagine that the petitioners will feel very chastened by the official rebuke. If after reaching the conclusion of the blue-book they will turn back to H.E. the Governor's letter of the 5th ult. to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, much as they may admire the ingenuity with which the Government has got up its case, they will still have the satisfaction of knowing that they have called attention to an exceedingly grave state of affairs, which Sir HENRY BLAKE acknowledges to exist equally with the humblest of the petitioners.

The German troops taking part in the expedition consequent upon the late troubles in the North have lost 18 officers, 32 non-commissioned officers and 250 men, or a total of 300.

THE NAVY LEAGUE AND THE FLEET.

(Daily Press, 31st July.)

While it is not always possible to find oneself in accord with all the methods of the Navy League, and while it is open to one to consider that its pronouncements are occasionally unconvincing, from a suspicion of exaggeration, it can be denied by no one that a great deal of useful work is constantly being performed by the League in calling general attention to serious defects in our naval equipment. We gladly therefore published the letter in our daily edition, which has been forwarded to us by the Hon. Secretary of the local branch of the League. The points which Messrs. H. SEYMOUR TROWER and W. CAIUS CRUTCHLEY make at the commencement of that letter are too strong to be passed over. We have from time to time ourselves published articles by recognised authorities, written for various home papers, bearing on the same or similar questions, and it will not be necessary here therefore to restate the arguments to which the Navy League can appeal to support its contentions. One comment, however, must be made. The writers of the letter which we quote allude to the present weakness of the Mediterranean Squadron. Now, as is well known, this Squadron has partly been weakened in order to strengthen the British fleet on the China Station. Russia threatens still further to augment her fleet in these waters, in which case the Navy League and its supporters naturally will look for a corresponding increase in the British naval strength in the Far East. But the League tells us that now is the time to send reinforcements to the Mediterranean. The problem of how to strengthen both these squadrons, while at the same time maintaining the strength of the Channel and other fleets, is not capable of immediate solution. Moreover, it is plain that the strain thrown upon our resources by fitting ourselves at once to meet even a two-power combination on every station is enormous. While we are in full sympathy with the most of the main lines of policy advocated by the League, we do not see what practical suggestion has been made for the immediate future, nor whether the League proposes any reasonable limit to our naval expansion to meet other nations' increases. As to the latter point, it must be plain to advocates of the three-power standard that a combined building effort of the three wealthiest nations would land us in great straits. We would suggest to such pleaders that the attitude of *Athanasius contra mundum*, in other words the policy of "glorious isolation" will lead them further than they mean to go.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 28th July, 6.58 p.m.

Sir Ernest Satow, single-handed, has carried the point that there shall be no increase of the Chinese tariff above 5 per cent.

In spite of the Regency council, all important business at the Imperial Court is still decided by the "Three Tigers," Li Lien-yang, Lu Chuan-lin, and Yung Lu.

SHANGHAI, 28th July, 8 p.m.

Private native advices from South-west Chihli state that the Allied Villagers now muster 25,000 well-armed troops, besides a large following of irregulars.

SHANGHAI, 29th July, 8.6 p.m.

The Empress Dowager has appointed Yung Lu Controller-General of the Board of Revenue.

The Boxers are awakening to activity, owing to Yuan Shikai's retirement on account of his mother's death.

SHANGHAI, 30th July, 8.15 p.m.

A pitched battle took place about the 20th July at Hanchuan, in Hupeh, between the Roman Catholic and Protestant converts. The Wuchang officials are now examining into the affair.

Intense heat now prevails at Hsianfu and there is much sickness, the patients including the Emperor and the Empress Dowager.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On the 29th ult. a meeting of the Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

Hon. Col. L. F. BROWN, R.E. (Commanding the Troops).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C. (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. C. McI. MESSER (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Commander R. M. RUMSEY, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. J. THURBURN.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

COL. BROWN TAKES THE OATH.

Col. L. F. BROWN, R.E. (Commanding the Troops), was sworn in on taking his seat in the Council in the absence on leave of H.E. Major-General Gascoigne.

THE LAW COMMITTEE.

On the proposal of H. E. the GOVERNOR, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving and Hon. T. H. Whitehead were elected to the Law Committee in place of Mr. Keswick and Mr. Gray.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table a clinical report on malaria by Dr. Bell, Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer, and Mr. G. Stewart (Lieut., I.M.S.), Acting Assistant Superintendent; also a blue-book containing correspondence regarding the sanitary condition of Hongkong, and a memorandum on the petition, dated 25th June. He said—With regard to the blue-book, I may mention that two diagrams have not been completed. The correspondence in the blue-book is completed, and the diagrams will be finished during the next two days, when another addition to the blue-book will be circulated to hon. members.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 44 to 47, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 7), and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS laid on the table a report of proceedings of the Public Works Committee at a meeting held on 15th July.

QUESTIONS.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following questions:—

LAND REGISTRATION IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary lay upon the Council table a return showing (1)

the number of claims to land in the New Territory sent in up to 30th June, 1901, and (2) the number of claims which had been finally disposed of by the Land Court up to that date? Also will the honourable member inform the Council what progress has been made with the survey of the New Territory?

EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE IN THE COLONY'S NEW TERRITORY.

Will the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer lay upon the Council table a statement showing the total expenditure incurred in connection with the New Territory from the date of the lease thereof, viz., 9th June, 1898, to 30th June, 1901, and the total revenue collected from the said New Territory during the same period, the principal items under both heads to be shown separately?

DISCONTENT AMONG THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS

OF THE POLICE FORCE AND THE

GAOL STAFF.

Has the attention of the Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police been directed to paragraphs and leaderettes which appeared in the *China Mail* of 23rd, 25th and 26th inst., in the *Telegraph* of 27th and in the *Daily Press* of 24th and 27th idem in respect of discontent among the European members of the police force and the gaol staff, and will the honourable member inform the Council as to the correctness or otherwise of the allegations and statements therein made?

JERRY-BUILDINGS.

Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works lay upon the Council table a statement showing the number of buildings in the Colony which have fallen down from 1st January, 1900, to 30th June, 1901, the names of the owners of said buildings, and the number of deaths caused by the tumbling down of said premises, and will the honourable member state the causes, so far as known, which have contributed to each accident, and, if they have resulted from defective construction, what precautions, if any, have been taken to prevent the erection of such buildings in the future?

NATURALISATION.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Siu Yun-fai, alias Siu Yun-hang, alias Siu Kwok-yeung, alias Siu Ku-ming, alias Yin-p'ing.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

TRAMWAYS ORDINANCE.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the scope of The Tramways Ordinance, 1883 (No. 6 of 1883), and the Tramways Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1883 (No. 18 of 1883).

The Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING seconded, and the motion was carried.

CROWN LEASES.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL was to have moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to validate Crown leases heretofore made of foreshore and submerged lands within the territorial waters of the Colony for reclamation and other purposes and to legalise and facilitate the making of such leases hereafter. In asking leave to withdraw the item from the orders of the day, he said—I may mention that various points have been raised in connection with the Bill, and I desire further time to consider the points.—

The item was withdrawn.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to reformatory schools. He said—Hon. members are aware that there has been recently erected in this Colony a building known as the Belilios Reformatory. Before its erection there was only a small building in existence in this Colony, and since this reformatory has been built it seems advisable that we should bring the legislation in this Colony more into line with the legislation in force in England and this Ordinance is based in the main upon the Industrial Schools Bill, which is set forth in Appendix XI to the report to the Home Secretary by the Departmental Committee on Reformatory and Industrial Schools, published in 1893. Although the Ordinance is called a Reformatory Ordinance, the boys qualified for admission belong mostly to the class admitted to industrial schools in England. I may mention,

Sir, for the information of this Council that, so far as I am aware, the only point in this bill which is in anyway new in principle, is embodied in sub-Section E. of Clause 3 of the Bill. That Section runs as follows:—Upon the recommendation of the Registrar-General, to send a male child, who appears to the Governor to be less than fourteen years of age, to a school in any instance where such child is not and does not appear liable to be brought before a Magistrate for the purpose of being dealt with under the provisions of Section 5 of this Ordinance. The object of this clause is to enable a boy to be sent to a reformatory school even although he may not have rendered himself liable to be dealt with by the magistrate. It seems desirable in certain cases where a male child appears to have no natural guardian or anyone to look after him, that the child should be sent to a reformatory, where no doubt he will be looked after and cared for. With these few observations I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

No alterations were made, and on the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

NATURALISATION.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Lau Yat Ts'un, alias Lau Ng, alias Lau Man Kwong, alias Lau Ng Wo, alias Lau Hok Wai. He said—Hon. members will see from the preamble of this Bill that Mr. Lau Yat Ts'un has been for the last 34 years one of the managing partners of the Kung Yuen firm, carrying on business as rice-merchants at No. 112, Wing Lok Street, and that he is also a director of the Po On Marine Insurance & Godown Company, Limited. He has continuously resided in this Colony for over 33 years, and has declared his intention of residing here permanently.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then considered the Bill in Committee clause by clause, and there being no alterations, on the Council resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

STAMPS AND STAMP DUTY.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Laws relating to stamps and stamp duty in the Colony of Hongkong. He said—I think, Sir, that hon. members will find the alterations effected in this Bill from the previously existing law clearly stated in the objects and reasons attached to the Bill, but in the main this Bill is an Ordinance to consolidate the previously existing law. The new provisions of the Bill will be found in the last page of the objects and reasons:—The object of sub-Section 1 (a) of clause 18 of the Bill is to introduce certain provisions of the English Legislature into this Colony in order to prevent rich persons who fall seriously ill from conveying away their property, a few days before their death, so as to evade probate duty. A few cases of this kind have recently occurred in this Colony.

The object of sub-Section 1 (b) and 1 (c) of clause 18 of the Bill, which are also founded upon English legislation, is to thwart other possible devices by which probate duty might be evaded.

Sub-Sections (2) and (3) of clause 18 of the Bill have been introduced for the express purpose of preventing attempts at evasion of probate duty under the plea that valuable consideration has been paid.

Clause 22 of the Bill contains provisions which are entirely new to this Colony, though similar provisions have been in force in England for some years past and have been law in the Straits Settlements ever since the passing of their Ordinance X of 1885. I think that it will be readily conceded that the introduction of such a Clause in this Colony is desirable. The proviso at the end of Clause 22 has been inserted in view of certain special powers which have been conferred upon the Official Administrator, the Colonial Treasurer, and the Captain Superintendent of Police, in certain cases, under the provisions of Sections 14, 19, 62, 63, and 64 of the Probates Ordinance, 3 of 1897.

Article 43 in the Schedule to the Bill makes probate duty payable on a higher scale than heretofore, and assimilates the scale of probate duty which is chargeable in this Colony to that which is charged in the Straits Settlements, except that the value of exempted estates remains fixed at \$250, as it has hitherto been in Hongkong, instead of being altered to \$500. Under our present law contained in Article 31 to the schedule of Ordinance 16 of 1886 as amended by Section 5 of Ordinance 13 of 1894, the probate duty charged is one per cent. where the value of the estate does not exceed \$5,000, and two per cent. where such value exceeds \$5,000; and I think that it will be readily conceded that that rate is a very low one, especially when it is borne in mind that in Great Britain 3 sets of duties are levied, namely probate duty, legacy or succession duty, and estate duty.

In Great Britain the probate duty alone between £100 and £500 (which is roughly equivalent from \$1,000 to \$5,000) is 2 per cent., between £500 and £1,000, 2½ per cent., and above £1,000, 3 per cent.

In connection, Sir, with Clause 22 of the Bill, as I have just pointed out to the Council, that introduces provisions which, so far as this Colony is concerned, are quite novel in character, and it imposes a penalty for anyone not taking out letters of administration before administering the estate of any deceased person. I would suggest, Sir, for the consideration of the Council, that it might be advisable to bring these provisions more particularly to the knowledge of the Chinese by means of proclamations. I am quite sure, from my experience in this Colony, and I think the hon. member on my left will bear me out, that it is not sufficiently appreciated amongst the Chinese that when a man dies in this Colony it is necessary that letters of administration should be taken out to his estate. I remember a rather curious case in which I was concerned a few years ago. In this case it was found out that a Chinaman had forged the name of his dead father to a deed for the sale of property in this Colony, and I was quite satisfied myself in that case that the forgery was done by the Chinaman in good faith—that is to say, he did not recognise that he was doing anything wrong in signing his father's name to the deed, apparently assuming that all rights and privileges of his father had descended by right to him as son. It is very desirable that the necessary knowledge of the law on the subject should be brought home to the Chinese, and I do not know any better way of doing it than by means of a proclamation. A suitable one could be drafted in the Registrar-General's Department, and it is especially desirable that this course should be adopted for the reason that under the new provision of Clause 22 of the Bill there is a penalty attached in the case of letters of administration not being taken out within a certain time mentioned in Clause 22. With these remarks I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL then moved that the Bill be referred to the Standing Law Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE TRAMWAYS BILL.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance for authorising the construction of a tramway within the Colony of Hongkong. He said—In moving the second reading of the Bill, which has already passed its first reading, I may state that this Bill has been the subject of long and careful consideration by the Acting Attorney-General and the Director of Public Works, in close conference with the solicitors of the promoters, and it affords me much satisfaction in bringing it before your Excellency and the hon. members of Council for the second reading. The objects of the Bill are to provide quick, reliable, and cheap means of transportation for passengers through certain portions of Hongkong, and to furnish transport for certain classes of freight along the line of tramway at such times as will not interfere with the passenger traffic. It is proposed to construct the tramways on the overhead trolley system of electric traction, and

I may add that it is the intention of the company to follow the very latest plan and to make use of the best materials. With regard to the route it is intended to take, this has been published at length in the papers, and I need hardly therefore go into details on that head. The main line will start from the extreme west of Belcher's Bay and will terminate at Shau-kiwan, and the branch line will run from Praya East to the Race-course in Wongneicheong Valley. The Attorney-General and the promoters have been hard at work on this Bill for some time past and all the Sections have been agreed to with the exception of Clauses 11, 14, and 47. With regard to the first, No. 11, sub-Section 3 reads:—"They shall leave an interval of at least one hundred yards between any two places at which they may open or break up the road, and they shall not without the consent of the Director of Public Works open or break up at any such place a grater length than two hundred yards." The promoters contend this Clause establishes too low a limit of the length of roadway that can be opened up to admit of the rapid construction of the line that it is desirable in all interests to promote. If this limit can be extended from 200, to 600 or 800 yards at one time, it would greatly facilitate the progress of the work. Referring to Clause 14, there is another difference of opinion. The adviser to the Government, the Director of Public Works, urges that, where there is a double track the road should be paved across its entire width, whereas the promoters contend that where there is a double track the road should be paved only in the tracks, and for eighteen inches outside of each rail; in short, that such double track should be treated simply as two single tracks. Coming to the last point of divergence, Clause 47, the Government contend now that the net earnings of the company must be considered the gross earnings less the actual operating expenses, whilst the promoters are of opinion that the net earnings should mean the gross earnings less actual operating expenses and also less the interest on any debentures that there may be on the stock of the Company. It has been arranged, I am given to understand, that these differences are to be thoroughly threshed out between the Secretary of State and the promoters of the enterprise in London. Now, Sir, there is one other little matter which has been pointed out to me by my honourable friend opposite (the Senior Member for the Chinese). It is in Clause No. 49. He points out that the cheap fare of three cents for a Chinese workman to come into town and three cents for him to return would be six cents a day or \$1.80 per month. This sum, added to the rent he would have to pay if living outside the city, would be more than he would have to pay in town, and consequently the overcrowding we are all so anxious to see abolished might not be so materially reduced as we now hope. I feel sure that if this point were brought before the promoters they would feel inclined to still further cheapen workmen's trams. These little differences, to which I have briefly alluded, ought not to be permitted to block the way. Where there are two parties, both anxious that a tramway should be started in the island; the Government, in order to assist in doing away with overcrowding in the Central districts of the city of Victoria; and the promoters, animated by a desire to lose no time in commencing to earn dividends, will very soon arrive at a satisfactory arrangement. When they are arranged and this much-desired means of communication established, it will, I am confident, prove a great boon to the Colony at large and to the poorer classes in particular, as it will enable them to quit the crowded and insanitary localities, and to live in healthier and more airy districts out of town. It will also prove a great convenience to the community in all weathers, and cannot fail to have some influence in promoting the interests of trade by improving the means of communication.

Mr. BELL IRVING seconded.

Mr. CHATER.—It has been suggested by the hon. Attorney-General that the Bill should be sent to the Law Committee.

Dr. HO KAI said he quite agreed with the senior unofficial member who proposed the second reading of the Bill, in the last remark he made especially. The Bill would enable the colony to acquire a tramway, which would be

most useful in prompting the welfare of the colony, as it would furnish a cheap means of travelling for the poorer classes, and would enable them to spread themselves out, as it were, thus relieving overcrowding in town. At the same time, unless the question of the fares to be charged to the labouring classes were settled, he could not agree to give the Bill his support. For the information of the Council he would state that for a single bed in the central part of the town a Chinese coolie would have to pay \$1.80 a month, and in Wanchai something like a dollar or a dollar and ten cents, whereas in the Kennedytown district or in Quarry Bay he would only pay about sixty cents. Now, in order to enable this class to spread out of town, it seemed to him it would have to be made worth their while. It was only a matter of arithmetic. Estimating thirty days in the month, three cents twice a day came to \$1.80, and in addition a coolie would have to pay fifty or sixty cents for lodging every night. This represented a sum that he could not afford, and if the bill was to gain the end aimed at, the clause would have to be very carefully considered, and a charge of perhaps not more than one cent made for each journey. As the clause now stood, the existence of the tramway would be a direct encouragement to overcrowd the centre of the town. The promoters would have to be approached to agree to charge something like one cent for each journey before it could be said truly that the Bill would ever benefit the colony. Otherwise it would fulfil only one object: it would afford a means of quick travelling to a certain class of the community who could afford to pay for it, but it would do nothing to spread the population of the colony. In fact, it would have just the opposite tendency, and instead of being a blessing it would be rather a burden on the colony. However, it would not be fair upon the company to have them work for nothing, and it appeared to him that instead of charging five per cent. on the net profits of the earnings of the company, the Government should do away with the royalty altogether in order to procure from the company a nominal charge in the fares for the labouring classes. With a two-cent fare for the double journey, the cost would only be sixty cents a month, and a working man could thus afford to take lodgings in the extreme east or west of the city, with the probability, further, of being able to save sixty cents by removing from the central portion of the town. A great incentive would thus be provided for the labouring classes to remove out of the town, and that was the first object to be attained. There was another matter to which it was desirable to make reference. Section 49 referred to a minimum night and morning of two cars, but if the labouring classes were charged only a nominal fee, twenty cars would be a more likely minimum. The question of the number of cars to be run and the time of their running should be left to the Governor in Council. The Governor would then be the sole judge as to how many cars would be necessary and at what time they should run. Dr. Ho Kai concluded by saying that he would support the bill through thick and thin if the promoters could meet him on the grounds he had indicated.

Mr. WHITEHEAD—I cordially agree with the remarks that have fallen from Dr. Ho Kai, the hon. member opposite, and I fully concur with him in the desirability for nominal fares for the working classes, at night and in the morning. The number of cars to be run is a matter that could be settled later on. The question of the royalty to be charged by the Government is a matter for the most serious consideration—whether the question of royalty should stand in the way of the granting of cheap fares to the poorer classes. I cordially support the suggestion that there be no royalty at all charged.

H. E. The GOVERNOR said that as the Bill was to be sent to the Law Committee he would take the opportunity now afforded him of saying something with regard to it, and of replying to the various questions that had been raised. Dealing first with paragraph No. 11, his Excellency said its object was to prevent too much space being opened up and great lengths of street made absolutely impassable, thus

compelling people to go a long distance round. While, therefore, he thought that 800 yards would be a great distance to have open, he was of opinion that the matter might be referred to the Acting Director of Public Works. It was only desired that there should be certain places where people could be free to pass over, and that could easily be arranged. If such places were arranged at short intervals there seemed no reason why there should be an interval of 100 yards between the working sections. There was a mistake in Section 14. In the original Bill he rather thought the proposal was that where two lines approached to within a distance of, say, four feet, that four feet should be concreted at the expense of the company. It was not the intention, he thought, that where one line ran along one side of the street, and another line on the opposite side the whole of the road in the centre should be concreted by the company. The idea was that where a single line became a double line, enclosing a space only sufficient to allow of the passing of the cars, that space should be concreted at the expense of the company. It seemed to him that that was a fair idea. With reference to clause 47, his Excellency said he wished to place himself right regarding it. In the original Bill as drafted the proposal in Section 47 was that the 5 per cent was to be paid upon net profits, and these net profits were defined as the sums of money to be annually applied in payment of dividends or bonuses, or towards a reserve fund. On consideration it was felt that this arrangement did not quite safeguard the public interests, and as a way out of the difficulty his Excellency wrote, after consultation with the Acting Attorney-General, to Mr. Boyle, who represented the promoters here, suggesting that instead of the proviso in the Bill the capital sum to be expended upon the undertaking should be taken as a basis, and that 6 per cent on this sum might be assumed to be the profits on which 5 per cent. should be paid for 35 years. This would get rid of the necessity for accounting and audit. His Excellency further said he pointed out that this was simply a suggestion of a possible solution and that it was by no means certain that the Executive Council would approve of it, and as a matter of fact it was not approved, though Mr. Boyle expressed his intention to recommend its adoption to the Syndicate. The sum mentioned as the cost of the line was \$1,700,000, which would work out to \$5,100 a year or \$425 a month. Now, assuming that ten thousand working people used the trains daily, the royalty would only represent a little over one-tenth of a cent for each passenger. Dealing with Dr. Ho Kai's proposal, His Excellency was of opinion that the giving up of the royalty on the part of the Government would not have any practical effect. As to overcrowding, the Government would not allow it, and the people must go somewhere. If that meant increase of rent, well, it would mean increase of wages as well. However, if the giving up of the royalty was thought likely to be of benefit, he was prepared to give the matter further consideration. (Applause.)

Mr. CHATER, for the information of Dr. Ho Kai, pointed out, with regard to the number of cars to be run, that Section 49 did not necessarily limit the number to two cars. If more were required, they would be run.

COLONIAL SECRETARY—With regard to fare, the section says the fare is not to exceed three cents. That does not necessarily mean that three cents will be charged.

H. E. the GOVERNOR—No.

The second reading of the bill having been agreed to, Mr. CHATER proposed that it be sent to the Law Committee.

Mr. BELL IRVING seconded, and the motion was carried.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL suggested that Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Company, the representatives of the promoters, should be consulted in the matter to ascertain their views on the reducing of fares for the labouring classes if the Government were willing to surrender its royalties.

This suggestion was agreed to.

THE CHARGES OF THE YEAR 1900.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An

Ordinance to authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum of five hundred and fifty-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-one dollars and seventy-eight cents, to defray the charges of the year 1900.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER moved that the Bill be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding.

There were four items for the consideration of the Committee. In the first the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,100 to meet the cost of railing in the openings round the cattle depôts at Kennedytown.

The CHAIRMAN said the recommendation emanated from the Sanitary Board, and to carry it out the sum mentioned was necessary.

The vote was agreed to.

In the next minute the Governor recommended the Council to vote the sum of \$10,000 to meet the estimated cost of two self-inking embossing presses and dies, &c., for a new series of stamps, &c., for the use of the Stamp and Post Offices.

The CHAIRMAN said this matter had been brought to the attention of the Government by the committee appointed to enquire into the question of the salaries of subordinate officials of the Government, and was now referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. MAY—I should like to point out, in regard to the committee that is said to have first suggested this matter, that it was suggested by myself in 1892, and I think some of my predecessors suggested it even before that.

COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not wish to detract from anyone, but I know the committee made similar recommendations. I think it will be agreed that this vote is most necessary.

The vote was agreed to.

In the next minute the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$5,000 to meet the cost to be incurred on account of the erection of a market at Kowloon Point during the current year.

The vote was agreed to.

In the last minute the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,720 in aid of the vote "Watering Streets" to cover the cost of four-water carts and pumps for the use of the Sanitary Department.

The vote was agreed to.

The Committee next considered the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum of five hundred and fifty-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-one dollars and seventy-eight cents, to defray the charges of the year 1900.

The various items in the Bill were considered separately, and all were agreed to. They are as follows:—

Governor and Legislature	\$4,806.93
Colonial Secretary's Department	6,698.02
Audit Department	1,762.53
Treasury	4,275.94
Public Works Department	6,011.06
Harbour Master's Department	6,681.00
Observatory	3,287.74
Botanical and Afforestation Department	2,605.55
Legal Departments	10,293.14
Education	5,186.76
Medical Departments	11,119.34
Magistracy	2,514.59
Sanitary Department	6,070.01
Transport	2,080.51
Miscellaneous Services	224,592.28
Military Contribution—Contribution towards Defence Works	4,800.00
Military Contribution—Expenses of the Volunteers	9,696.33
Public Works Recurrent	18,912.17

Ordinary Expenditure ... \$330,793.95

Extraordinary Public Works ... 229,197.83

Total Supplementary Votes ... \$559,991.78

This was all the business.

MEETING OF PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held to consider the proposal to establish a refuse-destructor for the city. The ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS presided, and the other members present were the Hon. C. P. Chater, Hon. J. Thurburn, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, and Hon. C. McI. Messer. Dr. Clark, Mr. E. Osborne, and Hon. F. H. May represented the Sanitary Board.

The CHAIRMAN said H.E. the Governor had suggested that the question of providing a refuse-destructor should be considered by the Public Works Committee in conjunction with the members of the Sanitary Board. The first occasion on which he could find a record of the question in the proceedings of the Public Works Committee was on 31st August, 1899, and the minutes showed that the estimated cost of the refuse-destructor was \$60,000. The question came up again at a meeting on 23rd July, 1900, and on that occasion the Committee again considered the proposal to establish a refuse-destructor at Kennedytown at a cost of \$60,000. On 23rd August, 1900, a month later, at another meeting, the proposal to include that sum in the estimates for 1901 was considered, and the question was finally discussed at a fifth meeting of the Committee on 23rd January, 1901. Mr. Chatham then entered into a lengthy statement of technicalities dealing with Mr. Crook's report and quoted liberally from correspondence with patentees of destructors. Continuing, he said it had been originally proposed to erect a destructor at a spot near the Kennedytown Slaughter House, but that was made impossible from the fact that the fine dust which would emanate from the destructor would in all probability settle on the meat. The latest suggestion was to have the destructor at Happy Valley. Mr. Chatham then proceeded to detail a scheme of his own for dealing more effectively and at less cost with the city refuse. He suggested that a couple of steam hopper barges be procured at an estimated cost of about \$40,000 each, and that three piers be erected at different points along the Praya conveniently situated for the different districts where the refuse could be taken early in the morning and loaded directly on to the barges, which of course would call to collect it and afterwards proceed to sea and dump it. There might be times when on account of stress of weather the barges could not go to sea. In the event of this, he proposed that at the end of each pier there be erected a shed where the rubbish could be received and stored away from public gaze and public interference until suitable opportunity occurred to take it away. One barge would be sufficient to carry away all the refuse of the city, but in case of breakdown or emergency, it would be advisable to have two constructed. A saving would be effected by this scheme in that the cost of the scavenging contract would be entirely done away with. The cost of working the two barges would be about \$6,000 each per annum. These were actual figures, not fancy estimates. The barges would be able to fill up, go out to sea and return in two or three hours, so that they could deal with any quantity of rubbish and also make provision for refuse very much in excess of what existed at present. He was of opinion that this was really the most inexpensive and economical scheme for disposing of refuse. In regard to the piers, they could be made another source of income. A portion of them could be let out to steam ferry companies. Dozens of applications had reached him for permission to make piers for steam ferry services, and a good income could be obtained by letting out portions of the piers.

Dr. CLARK, referring to the Chairman's criticism of the estimate given by Mr. Crook, said the estimate included the preparation of the site, the erection of the chimney and the erection of quarters for the attendants. Then again the Chairman had quoted from comments of the patentees of one destructor as against the patentees of another. Well, the one side would say as much as they could to depreciate the other, so he did not think that much weight attached to these quotations. The reason which actuated the Board in pressing this matter was to secure the absolute destruction of plague refuse. During a plague epidemic refuse was removed from the houses and had to be burned

in any open space which might be available in the neighbourhood. These spaces were becoming year by year more limited. Complaints were coming from people living in their neighbourhood as to the nuisance not only from smoke but also as to the street coolies picking over this stuff, and taking away what was worth their while, and they could not be prevented unless there was a European constable on duty at every heap. A second reason was the constant complaints as to the silting up of refuse thrown from the boats that were engaged to take the rubbish away. Hundreds of tons of the rubbish was thrown overboard, abolishing the deep water frontage, and if this went on year after year, they would eventually have no deep water frontage at all. At low water this refuse was exposed, and the smell which emanated from it was unquestionably a danger to the public health. Every one who went out on a launch occasionally knew that a large quantity of this rubbish was unshipped as soon as the boat got away from the eyes of the water police at the back of Stonecutter's Island. That accounted for the tons of rubbish that came floating over the harbour at times, making the harbour extremely foul. It was also thrown up on the sandy beaches and foreshore. The refuse of the City of Victoria was about 130 tons a day or 3,900 tons a month. Now, they had a letter from Singapore in which it was distinctly stated by the Municipal Engineer that a four-cell destructor consumed 2743 large cart loads of refuse in one month. The Hongkong cart-loads could hardly be called large, and yet he believed each of them held at least a ton. Assuming, then, that 2743 cart-loads meant 2743 tons, the probability was that a six-cell destructor would be capable of destroying all the refuse of the City. The Municipal Engineer of Singapore said that the destructor there had been in use since 1897, with the most satisfactory results. He also said that no fuel was used in the furnaces. The Public Works Committee had been largely influenced in their previous decision on this matter by the statement of Mr. Ormsby that the refuse-destructor would require a large quantity of fuel. Comparing Hongkong with Singapore, the population was much smaller, but in the latter place they had rain every other day, so that the refuse was bound to get wetter than here, and, if they required no fuel there other than that needed to produce forced draught, surely they might reasonably assume that they would require no fuel to burn the refuse here. He had it in his mind to suggest to the Committee that it would be a very simple matter for the Government of this colony to send a practical man of the Public Works Department to Singapore to see the actual working of the refuse-destructor, and report. He would be in an excellent position then to say whether such a system would work in Hongkong, and they would get far more information from him than by any amount of documents or correspondence, and he might say any amount of special pleading. With regard to the Chairman's proposal for hopper barges and piers, that was equally as good a scheme, but would probably be found to be the more expensive of the two.

Mr. THURBURN—May I ask a question? Is it not the case that a destructor has been already ordered, and is to be available for the destruction of plague refuse?

Dr. CLARK—The Sanitary Board pointed out that a destructor used for the destroying of carcasses of cattle would not be suitable for the destruction of city refuse.

Mr. CHATER—We had it here that it could destroy plague refuse, but it came out in the Sanitary Board meeting that it could not.

The CHAIRMAN—It could be done, but it is not an economical method.

Dr. CLARK—If you want to know the most economical way of getting refuse from the various parts of the City to the refuse-destructor, I think that the proper way to do it is this: You have the carts full, and the rubbish in those carts should not be transferred or handled in any way. The carts should be taken to the level of Queen's Road, and put upon bogey trollies which would run on the tram lines, and then with ordinary coolie labour run along to the refuse destructor.

Continuing, Dr. CLARK said that if they were to have three wharves and only one hopper

barge he should be very sorry for the sanitary condition of this City, as, while the barge would be loading at one pier many cartloads of rubbish would have to lie on the other two piers.

Mr. OSBORNE spoke in support of the Chairman's scheme, and suggested three ordinary hopper barges to call at the three piers to collect the rubbish, after which they could be taken out to sea by a steam tug to discharge their cargo.

After Mr. MAY had spoken,

The CHAIRMAN said that as regarded the piers it was his intention to have them concreted with shoots leading to the barge. The whole thing would be of such construction that it could be easily washed down at any time. His idea of having three piers was that, instead of the rubbish having to be trundled through the streets for miles, it could be run to any of these three places within reasonable distance of the different districts.

Dr. CLARK requested that the scheme be referred once more to the Sanitary Board, as there were some details he would like to go into.

The members of the Sanitary Board then retired, after which the Committee discussed the matter privately, and concluded that a refuse destructor should not be provided, and that the scheme brought forward by the Chairman should be further gone into and referred to the Sanitary Board for consideration.

SUDDEN DEPARTURE OF BRITISH WARSHIPS.

Sailing, it is believed, under sealed orders—a phrase that may express much and again may mean little—the second-class cruiser *Eclipse*, the sloop *Daphne* and the gunboat *Pigmy* left the harbour suddenly between half-past nine and ten o'clock on Wednesday night. The rumour regarding the projected despatch of warships was chronicled in our issue of Thursday. The *Daphne* was the first to sail, picking up her moorings at half-past nine. Shortly afterwards the *Pigmy* followed, and at ten o'clock the *Eclipse* steamed away in the wake of the two gunboats. The destination of the vessels, so far as the public is concerned, is a mystery, and, as always happens when the circumstances are startling and information meagre, rumours, vague and improbable, are rife. The first that gained currency was the stranding of H.M.S. *Glory*, which was due here on the 1st inst., with Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge on board. This, however, was promptly denied on enquiry at the Naval Yard, but beyond that and the bare fact of the vessels having been despatched hurriedly, Commodore Powell, C.B., would furnish no information. Another story stated the object to be the frustrating of some French move at Amoy. All this is mere conjecture, and so it must remain until the authorities are pleased to unburden themselves or news reaches us from either the North or London.

SICKNESS AMONGST THE TROOPS.

TWO MORE DEATHS.

Two more deaths took place on the 28th ult. amongst the troops, in Hongkong. Private Townley, Army Ordnance Corps, succumbing to heat-stroke, and Gunner Toriador, Royal Garrison Artillery, to an attack of fever. The funerals took place at Happy Valley Cemetery late in the afternoon, and were well attended alike by a very large number of military and civilians. The coffins were wreathed with floral tributes from the dead soldiers' comrades. Gunner Toriador was a Roman Catholic, and the funeral services had to be conducted separately. The volleys over the grave of the artilleryman were heard as the service for Private Townley was proceeding. Townley will be remembered as a very clever cornet-player, and gave a performance at the Volunteer promenade concert as late as some three weeks ago. He was admitted to hospital on the 25th ult., having contracted sunstroke through working underneath a tarpaulin with his head uncovered. He probably thought that the tarpaulin was sufficient guard against the heat of the sun. It is earnestly to be hoped that the men will take warning in time. They cannot be too careful during the present excessively hot weather, and should,

whenever and wherever possible, avoid working in the sun, or, when duty compels them to do so, should always safeguard themselves by keeping their heads covered. The Royal Artillery have been in the habit of holding morning drill, but this, we understand, has on the advice of the senior army medical officer been discontinued until the weather becomes cooler. These precautionary measures, however, on the part of those in authority, can have no practical result in preventing sunstroke and fever unless the men themselves treat the matter seriously and avoid running needless risks. The percentage of sickness from fever amongst the troops at present is remarkably high, and is causing no little anxiety to those in authority. We understand that there are no less than sixty cases at least in hospital at present, and that several of them are very serious.

THE DISCONTENT IN THE POLICE FORCE.

In our issue of Saturday last the 27th ult. we published a second brief article on the discontent in the police force, in which we quoted three reasons for the discontent prevailing in the force. To-day we are in a position to give some additional reasons, as to the justice of which we leave our readers and the authorities to judge for themselves.

One of these additional reasons is that, as the men claim, Section X of the Articles of their Agreement is not kept by the powers that be. The Section reads as follows:—"He will also be required to attend drill a half-hour three or four days per week until he is efficient." Now the men claim that many of them who came out a considerable time ago were in the force in England, or non-commissioned officers in the army or marines, and as such had certainly to be efficient in their drill; not only that, but a number of men who came with the last batch from home were ex-drill instructors. Still the whole of them not only had to do their weekly drill, but are doing it yet. So it looks as if they will never be "efficient" enough to suit the Hongkong authorities, "though we could teach them how to drill," as one former non-com. of the marines remarked.

Another cause for dissatisfaction among the men at the Central Station is a certain sergeant, who though not senior sergeant, has been passed over the head of several seniors of his rank, practically to do inspector's work. But the greatest objection the men have to his being there is his tendency, as they put it, of reporting everything he hears them say to the Chief Inspector or Captain-Superintendent, and should he overhear them discussing a grievance among themselves, of course it makes them marked men.

The Water Police, also, have several causes for discontent. The first is a disregard by the authorities of the Police Regulations of 1895, —the latest out—in regard to leave from duty when detained by a case at the Court. Section 2 of the Leave Regulations reads thus:—"Men attending the Supreme Court or Police Court as witnesses for three or four hours shall be allowed one hour's leave from regular duty; for attendance of four or five hours, two hours' leave, for five to six hours, three hours' leave, and for more than six hours, four hours' leave." Such is the regulation, but the men say they never get the leave, and naturally are not pleased about it, especially as the land force is granted the same, though they have only six hours' duty, whereas the duration of duty of the water policeman is usually eight hours.

A still stronger grievance have the men of the Water Police as regards their duty on the launches. According to Section 1 of the Water Police Regulations, launches must be steered by sergeants or constables, who have passed an examination as coxswains only. The officer in charge of the launch is prohibited from interfering with the coxswain being only permitted to tell him where to go to. Should, however, an accident occur to the launch, as happened while P.C. Pitt, No. 71, was in charge of the launch, the officer is fined. P.C. Pitt was mulcted \$8.

Moreover, formerly an European constable or sergeant passing his examination as "master of launches" and getting his certificate, received an extra allowance of \$4 monthly, as he was responsible for the launch. This allowance has been

taken away since January, 1900, but the European police officer in charge of a launch is still responsible for its safety, though he dare not give an order to the coxswain, even were it to avoid a collision. In fact they have the responsibility, but not the authority.

The men also claim that now a number of Chinese are in employ as coxswains who are not constables, and still the police officer must not interfere whether they steer well or badly, but must bear the brunt in case of accidents.

It has never before been known that a man must have three months' service on the force before he can get leave of absence from roll call, but such a rule has been inaugurated by the new inspector of the Water Police. Needless to say, it does not add to his popularity.

The last grievance of the men of the Water Police is that a man who has only about five months' service, having previously been a chief petty officer in the navy, and was made a first-class inspector off the reel by the Captain Superintendent, has not only been put in charge of the Water Police force, though he is actually ignorant of an inspector's duties, but been put over another inspector who has thirteen years' service in the force with a clear record, and who must now teach the new man his duties, while at the same time playing only second fiddle.

There certainly seems a call for a thorough enquiry into the causes of discontent.

TRIAL TRIP OF A NEW WATER-BOAT.

On the 30th ult. a launch left Blake Pier to convey visitors to the works at Kowloon Bay of Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Company, engineers and shipbuilders, to witness the trial trip of a new vessel for the Hongkong Steam Water-Boat Company, Ltd. There were on board Messrs. Bailey and Murphy (builders), J. W. Kew (manager of the Water-Boat Company), C. T. Kew, G. W. Kew, Liao Tze San (manager of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company), Chau Siu Ki (manager of the Hongkong & Kowloon Land & Loan Company, Ltd.), and the representatives of the Press.

The company first visited the works of Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Company. The amount of business that passes through the hands of this comparatively new concern is remarkable. In fifteen months of existence, the firm has built altogether fourteen vessels, and has many more orders in prospect. At the present moment there are on the stocks five vessels. One launch, destined for a firm in Nagasaki, was launched on the 30th ult. and its place on the stocks immediately taken by the framework of another vessel of a similar description. From employing something over a hundred men at the start, the firm now finds it necessary to keep a steady staff of over four hundred men, with the probability of the number increasing as the business expands. That the business is expanding is shown in the fact that Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Company are constantly adding to a plant already almost complete.

Leaving the works of the builders, the company stepped on board the new water-boat, No. 3, and left for the trial spin on the measured mile at the Channel Rocks. The celerity with which the order for the vessel has been executed is worthy of remark; it was placed only six months ago, and even then the plans, etc., had to be drawn up and approved. However, the work was gone into with spirit, and yesterday the water-boat, engined and ready for taking up the duties for which she is intended, was handed over to the owners. The vessel is one of the largest of her class yet built by Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Co., her measurements being—length, 110 feet; beam, 20 feet; and depth, 9 feet. There are six steel bulkheads, with suitable sluices for "trimming" purposes. The contract carrying capacity is 160 tons of water, but the boat is quite capable of taking an additional 20 tons. The propelling power is derived from compound engines driven by a steel boiler registering a pressure of 120 pounds. Fitted on deck is a powerful Worthington pump, an American patent, capable of discharging water at the rate of 70 tons an hour. The estimated speed of the water-boat was six knots, but on the measured mile, with 70 tons of water aboard, seven-

and-a-half knots were registered. Later, carrying only 20 tons, a speed of eight-and-a-quarter knots was recorded. The results of the trial gave great satisfaction to the gentlemen concerned.

The Hongkong Steam Water-boat Company, Ltd., for whose service the new vessel is intended, was first organised some five years ago by Mr. J. W. Kew, the present manager of the firm. Ten months ago the concern was turned into a limited company. At that time they owned two steam water-boats, but finding the number insufficient to cope with the growing demands of trade, they decided to order a third boat—the one whose trial we have just recorded. As business increases it is intended to add still further to the number of vessels. The object of the company (which has the sole contract of supplying the vessels of His Majesty's fleet on this station) is to supply the shipping with pure, clean, fresh water. The supply is taken from Government filter-beds, and is superior to that supplied by similar Chinese companies, from the fact that families do not live aboard the Hongkong Water-boat Company's vessels to cause possible contamination of the water.

A very enjoyable tiffin was partaken of prior to the run back to Hongkong, when the following toasts were proposed:—"The Builders," by Mr. Chau Siu Ki, responded to by Mr. Bailey; "The Hongkong Steam Water-boat Company, Ltd.," by Mr. Murphy, responded to by Mr. J. W. Kew; "The Visitors," by Mr. Murphy, responded to by Mr. Liao Tze San; "The Press," by Mr. Murphy, responded to by Mr. T. Petrie.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PETITION.

The blue-book, which now appears under the title of *Correspondence regarding the Sanitary Condition of Hongkong and Memorandum on Petition dated 25th June, 1901*, has been awaited with no little interest in the Colony, and we propose now to give certain parts of it, dealing with the rest elsewhere. Its contents are:—The letter of the Chamber of Commerce, dated the 7th June, together with the reply of H.E. the Governor, and the Chamber's letter of the 24th June; a letter, dated the 5th July, from H.E. the Governor to Secretary of State for the Colonies respecting plague in Hongkong; numerous enclosures, including the Petition forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the residents of the Colony, to which are appended memoranda by Hon. W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works, and Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, designed to rebut certain of the allegations made in the Petition; a longer memorandum on the Petition, signed by Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, Hon. W. Chatham, President, and Hon. F. H. May, Vice-President of the Sanitary Board; and several smaller enclosures. We give first H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake's letter of the 5th July:—

Government House,
Hongkong, 5th July, 1901.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward for information particulars of the epidemic of plague with which unhappily this Colony has been visited during the present year.

2. Last year there were only one or two cases per week down to the end of March, with the exception of the three weeks ending 24th March during which no case was reported. From the 7th April the returns showed from twenty cases to ninety cases per week, the latter figure being for the week ending 30th June, when the disease subsided, the week ending on the 18th August showing 26 cases, and the following week 9. The four weeks of November were the only four consecutive weeks free from the disease; the two last weeks of the year showing each only one case.

3. As Rinderpest had been prevalent on the mainland and I have observed some mysterious connexion between Rinderpest and Plague, which frequently develops after Rinderpest has been pronounced, I sent early in January for the Medical Officer of Health and instructed him to send in at once his suggestions for dealing effectively with a possible recurrence of Plague in epidemic form during

the year, and on the 28th January I received his suggestions, anticipating that No. 9 district would probably be the worst; he recommended that:—

(a.) European Constables should make a thorough house-to-house visitation once a week, each to speak Chinese or have an Interpreter.

(b.) That to prevent the depositing of dead bodies on the street, the police patrol of that district should be augmented by swearing in fifty Indian soldiers as Special Constables to be controlled by a European Officer, the same system to be extended to other districts, should the Plague spread.

(c.) That the Light Regulations (Sec. 31 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1888) should be re-enacted in plague districts, and that they should be at once applied to the Western part of the City.

(d.) That in case of dead plague bodies being found in back-lanes, which could not be controlled by the Special Police, every house in the lane should be cleansed and disinfected.

(e.) That a reward of five dollars should be offered for such information as would lead to the conviction of persons depositing dead bodies in the street or public thoroughfare.

(f.) That a reward of one dollar should be offered for every living case of Plague reported to the Tung Wa Hospital (an excellent Charitable Institution supported entirely by the Chinese) or nearest Police Station, and that in all such cases Government should pay two dollars for each floor disinfected as compensation for small articles that might be destroyed or damaged in the process of disinfection.

(g.) Should disease spread in spite of these precautions, a further European Staff would be required to assist in disinfection.

4. With the exception of the regulation made under Ordinance No. 13 of 1888 that all Chinese should carry a lantern, a suggestion of which the Colonial Secretary and the Captain Superintendent of Police disapproved, I approved at once of all these proposals, and, in addition to the Police, the requisite number of men was lent by the Military Authorities, isolated matched accommodation being prepared for them at the expense of this Government and extra pay given to them, as during the epidemic of 1894.

5. Further suggestions were made by the Sanitary Board for the improvement of the Sanitary staff and were adopted. Unfortunately the health of Mr. Dandy, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, broke down, and on his departure I have recommended the appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

6. From the middle of February the cases began to increase. In the week ending 23rd February there were five cases reported, which increased to fourteen in the second week of March, and to twenty-four in the third week of April, the next week's returns showing sixty-five cases, the first week in May ninety-three, and the following week one hundred and twenty-eight. In the first week of June it reached two hundred and twelve, with two hundred and six deaths. The second, third, and fourth weeks in June the returns were one hundred and fifty-nine, one hundred and forty-five, and one hundred and fifty-three, while the last week it sank to sixty.

6. By this time the people became seriously alarmed. Since the 11th May twenty-five Europeans had been attacked and nine had died.

The public Press published letters and articles that increased the alarm, which was intensified among the Chinese by the refusal, under your instructions, to permit the removal to Canton, as in 1894, of any person suffering from plague, even under conditions of regulated precaution. An exodus of the Chinese community ensued, which has had the result of paralysing certain works in the Colony and has caused the gravest inconvenience and loss. I addressed you on this subject by despatch No. 239 of the 29th ultimo. On the 7th ultimo the Chamber of Commerce addressed to the Government the letter of which, with my reply, I enclose a copy, and also of a further letter of 24th June, of which a copy is also enclosed and which I propose to answer, giving them full information as to sanitary matters, which is now being collated.

7. From the first I have watched the returns day by day with an anxious endeavour to satisfy

myself if the very full facts submitted afforded ground for a workable theory as to the cause of the disease. How does it originate? How is it propagated? Is it a dirt disease, a drain disease, or is it caused by want of light and air? or by some atmospheric condition not yet grasped by scientific research? Is it infectious or contagious? Is it air-borne or propagated by vermin? The last theory holds water to a certain extent, for undoubtedly the advent of plague-stricken rats has been very frequently followed by cases of plague, and patients have been received in hospital with insect bites about the ankles, the serum from which was found to be swarming with plague bacilli. On the other hand a large number of the rats collected, against which vermin we have been waging war for the past eighteen months, have been found by the coolies engaged in collecting the city rubbish for removal, to whom the reward is a matter of great concern. These men, I am informed, carry the rats sometimes about them until counted out to the Inspector, lest their prize should be appropriated by their fellows, yet none of these men have contracted the disease. Again the plague charts show an invariably rapid fall from the maximum plague rate to normal. The epidemic always ceasing in from three to four weeks.

I attached a chart of plague cases in the years 1899, 1900 and 1901 that will show how constant is this condition of rapid recovery. This rather favours the theory that the epidemic is due to atmospheric condition. I have no reason to believe that the Sanitary Staff are not doing their duty faithfully, and if they are, then with the large powers given to the Medical Officer of Health there should not be in Hongkong a house unfit for habitation, nor should any house be permitted to continue in an insanitary state. At present there seems to be a preponderance of opinion among the community that the plague is attributable to overcrowding, insanitary dwellings, and a bad system of drainage. But while all or any of these conditions may contribute to the perpetuation of the disease, the fact remains that one of the worst districts in the Colony this year is at Hunghom, a newly built quarter on Kowloon peninsula of two-storied houses, fronting streets 50 feet wide and inhabited by the best paid working men of the Chinese community—the workmen of the Whampoa Dock Company. I was so struck by this fact in apparent opposition to the various theories, that I requested Major-General Gascoigne to permit an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps to make an independent report upon it, placing the services of a Sanitary officer and an officer of the Public Works Department at his disposal. I attach his report.

8. The very high percentage of mortality here has also engaged my attention. In the epidemic of 1896 it was 91.12 per cent. In 1898, 89.45 per cent. In 1901, 94.56 per cent. This percentage is higher than that reported from other places, and is generally supposed to be much higher than at Macao or Canton, though there are no figures available for the latter, and at Macao local conditions render statistics on this subject unreliable, as plague patients go across the harbour to the Chinese hospital in great numbers. I have visited the plague hospital on two occasions and thoroughly inspected it. Nothing could be more entirely satisfactory than its arrangements, and so far as I could see nothing was wanting in the treatment or the surroundings. Yet there must be some cause for the exceptional mortality. On reading the report of the action taken last year in Bombay, I found that patients were allowed to remain in their houses to be nursed by their friends under proper restrictions, and early in May I suggested that the experiment might be tentatively tried here, but the suggestion was not accepted by the Sanitary Board. Personally I have little doubt that with such a regulation the mortality would not be so high. The plague hospital is at the extreme western extremity of the town, and the carriage of a plague-stricken patient in an ambulance, which, until I ordered wheeled ambulances with pneumatic tyres, consisted of a cot slung upon a pole, and carried for two or three miles by two coolies, could not be conducive to the recovery of the patient.

9. On the 10th May, I authorised the erection of a matched plague hospital at Yaumati on the Kowloon peninsula and obtained from Major-General Gascoigne the services of Dr. Stewart of the Indian Medical Service to relieve Dr. Thomson from his duties as Medical Officer of the Gaol, so that his entire time should be devoted to plague work.

10. On the 20th May, I authorised the employment of a launch and of two junks, in which patients could be taken to the plague hospital from the eastern district, or dead bodies sent for burial, that they might not be carried through the streets. At the same time additional accommodation in the shape of a good and airy matched was provided at Kennedy Town and two additional nurses were engaged.

11. Feeling that if the disease is propagated by vermin, the Chinese coolies ought to have an opportunity of washing, I directed the Public Works Department to erect a number of match-sheds with arrangements for hot water. It was generally assumed that the Chinese coolie would not avail himself of this means of cleanliness, but the thousands who have since flocked to these bath-houses have shown that they are ready to avail themselves of any opportunity for securing personal cleanliness, and the Sanitary Board has requested that more match-sheds may be erected, and provision made for permanent baths. I have suggested that the working women shall have like facilities, but the Board reports that they would not use them. I propose, however, that one or two shall be provided as an experiment.

12. I have now given you every information as to the efforts made to combat the disease during the present year, efforts that I regret to say seem to have been unavailing. From one experiment just completed it is possible that good results may be obtained. Seeing in the Bombay reports that where a house was thoroughly disinfected plague did not recur that year, and observing from the full particulars given in our returns of the past three years that more than one case in any house was comparatively rare, I directed the Medical Officer of Health to select the worst centre of the disease and to thoroughly disinfect a given area (hitherto only the floor on which a case occurred was disinfected). This was carried out on the 21st and 22nd June, and if within that area no more cases occur this year, I think it will afford grounds for taking legal power to disinfect all houses within the City when next year it will be advisable to employ a very large number of men in February and disinfect the entire city quarter by quarter. If that does not succeed, the question will remain what structural changes shall be carried out and what property resumed, destroyed, or rebuilt.

13. In approaching this question it must be remembered that we should be dealing with property worth from £100,000 to £150,000 per acre, and I do not feel competent to deal with so large a question without first obtaining the advice of an eminent Sanitarian. The letter of the Chamber of Commerce shows that a considerable section of the community consider the drainage to be in a dangerous condition. The Sanitary Board point out that houses are too high and call for an Ordinance restricting houses to once and a half the height of the width of the streets measured from kerbstone to kerbstone, and have on general principle that I cannot gainsay recommended that six private streets at the ends of which are houses erected over archways shall be entirely opened by the removal of the latter, which will, the Acting Director of Public Works estimates, cost one hundred and seven thousand dollars.

If one or the other assumption of the cause of insanitary conditions be correct it will cost a very large sum indeed. I question if the community quite realise how much, but whatever the sum if the result be to banish plague it will be well spent. The letter of the Chamber of Commerce shows that the people of Hongkong will not object to any expenditure within their means, and I am quite certain that in asking you to send out a Sanitary Engineer of such eminence in his profession as will command public confidence, to report upon the general state of Hongkong, its drainage system, its water system, and the general question of sanitation, I have the support of all classes of the community. May I suggest that you telegraph

to me the expense of such an examination and report when I can lay the matter before the Legislative Council for approval? Mr. Osbert Chadwick's exhaustive and able reports of 1882 and 1889 on the sanitation of Hongkong are now being widely read and considered. By some it is held that his recommendations have been neglected, indeed this appears to be the opinion of the majority. My study of the conditions does not lead to this conclusion. The matter will be set at rest by such a report as I suggest upon the present necessities of the City of Victoria and the rapidly growing town on Kowloon Peninsular as regards sanitation.

14. I have in this despatch only dealt with the question of sanitation in relation to plague, but much has been done and is being done by the Public Works Department in dealing with the Anopheles Mosquito, and I see solid ground for hope that with continued effort the curse of malarial fever may ultimately practically disappear from our returns.

15. I enclose for your information three of the returns that are sent to me daily. I have had these returns made in the hope that one day the accumulated facts might afford some clue to the etiology of the disease; hence I have requested that in the history of the cases, the places where employed, and the places where food was procured, should be noted, as it is possible that mouldy rice might be the original host of the plague bacillus, and if many cases could be traced to the same source of supply a clue might possibly be afforded.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

HENRY A. BLAKE.

To the Right Honourable
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE
COLONIES.

The following is the letter of H.E. the Governor forwarding the Petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—

Government House,
Hongkong, 13th July, 1901.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward a Memorial handed to the Colonial Secretary on the 11th instant to which over 1,000 signatures are appended.

2. As certain statements in the Memorial require examination I have requested the Colonial Secretary, the Director of Public Works, and the Captain Superintendent of Police to look into the matter and report. I shall forward their report for your information. In the meantime the Memorial, which I had not seen before writing my despatch No. 244 of the 5th instant, supports my statement as to the public anxiety that an expert report should be obtained upon the general question of the sanitation of the Colony.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,
HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor, &c.

The Right Honourable
JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

There follows the letter of the 18th ult. from the Colonial Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 18th July, 1901.

Sir,—In continuation of my letter of the 6th instant, and in pursuance of the statement made in paragraph 2 thereof, viz., that directions have been given that a full report as to the action taken by this Government since 1882 in connexion with sanitation should be prepared and made public, I am now directed by His Excellency the Governor to forward for the information of your Committee the attached two reports, one by Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, on the Sanitary legislation, and the other by the Honourable W. Chatham, Acting Director of Public Works, on the Public Works carried out in pursuance of sanitary measures.

2. As was to be expected, experience has modified the views of some who in 1887 opposed Government proposals on Sanitation, but His Excellency thinks the two reports will satisfy the community that the Government has not lagged behind but has rather been in advance of local public opinion in this important matter.

3. However, much remains to be done, and in the meantime a large mass of facts as to the incidence of disease is being accumulated that may assist the Expert, for whose services application has been made, in his investigation into the Sanitary condition of Hongkong.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,
Chamber of Commerce.

The following is the Governor's letter of the 18th ult., with which H.E. forwarded the Memoranda drawn up by the Colonial Secretary, the Acting Director of Public Works, and the Captain Superintendent of Police on the various statements in the Petition:—

Government House,
Hongkong, 18th July, 1901.

Sir,—I have the honour, in reference to my despatch No. 254 of the 13th instant, to forward for your information the Memoranda drawn up by the Colonial Secretary, the Acting Director of Public Works, and the Captain Superintendent of Police on the various statements in the Petition.

2. I fear that the signatories to the Petition were not acquainted with the facts and that it was largely signed on the simple issue that the sanitation of the town required thorough examination by an Expert of eminence. I observe that some of the signatures are those of aliens. The few Chinese whose signatures were obtained are, I am informed, men of small consideration among the Chinese community, but, apart from this, the Petition is influentially signed.

3. The Memoranda show that the Government has not been neglectful. It appears that the Sanitary Ordinances introduced since the year 1887 were carried by the Government against the opposition of the Unofficial members, and that during the past 18 years the sum of \$4,748,522 has been spent in works of Sanitation.

4. Still the fact remains that the expenditure of this money has had apparently no effect upon the recurrence or severity of Bubonic Plague, a disease as mysterious and as fatal now as it was in 1894.

5. In my despatch No. 244 of the 5th instant, I mentioned the experiment of thoroughly disinfecting a small district. That disinfection took place on the 21st and 22nd of last June. I regret to find that in the short time that has since elapsed, and with a rapidly decreasing plague return, there have been reported eight cases from this small disinfected area. This does not promise much hope of success from the extensive and expensive experiment of disinfecting the entire town next Spring as suggested by me. We might possibly reduce the death rate by producing an exodus, but this places us no nearer to a solution of this terrible difficulty.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

HENRY A. BLAKE,
Governor, &c.

The Right Honourable
JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

H.M.S. "ECLIPSE" IN HONGKONG.

H.M.S. *Eclipse*, which arrived in Hongkong Harbour on Monday evening, was commissioned at Chatham on May 30th of this year, when the following officers were appointed:—

Captain.—R. H. S. Stokes.
Commander.—R. G. Gregory.
Lieutenants.—L. J. MacHutchin, H. Bonham-Carter, M. T. Daniel, R. A. Preston, A. V. Gouldsmith.
Staff-Surgeon.—C. G. Matthew, M.B.
Paymaster.—S. L. Clarke.
Chief Engineer.—G. P. Webster.
Surgeon.—A. J. Hewitt.
Assist. Paymaster.—B. W. G. Cook.
Engineer.—G. R. Byles.
Assist. Eng.—H. L. Robinson.
Gunner.—W. Wray, G. A. Berry.
Carpenter.—H. F. Kenahett.
Midshipmen.—R. Bacchus, B. Vigne, C. J. L. Noakes, A. S. Douglas, G. P. N. Fitzgerald, J. D. Clarke, F. N. Biggs.
Naval Cadet.—C. H. Phillips, A. G. Onslow.

H.M.S. *Eclipse*, which is certainly larger and better equipped than the *Hermione* (whom she has relieved) is a twin-screw vessel of 5,600 tons. She was built at Portsmouth in 1894 at a cost of £279,343, and her principal dimensions are—length, 350 ft.; beam, 53 ft.; draught, 20 ft. 3 in. Her main armament consists of five 6 in. quick-firers, six 4.7 in. and 15 smaller guns. Her engines, which indicate 9,600 horse-power, give her a speed of a little more than 19 knots, and she has at present a crew of 453 men.

When the *Eclipse* was three miles off Colombo on the voyage out, a man fell overboard. A boat was lowered, but the poor fellow was not saved. He was seen within about four feet of the life-buoys, and the people on board fancy that a shark must have got hold of him. The *Eclipse* experienced bad weather coming from Aden, having one of her boats smashed up by the sea.

CHINA FIELD FORCE STAFF.

The following, says a Simla telegram of the 13th ult., will be the Staff of the China Field Force when Sir Alfred Gaselee leaves next month:—

General Officer Commanding, Major General Creagh, V.C.

Chief Staff Officer, Colonel Sullivan, R.E.

D. A. A. G., Captain Grimstone, 18th Bengal Lancers.

D. A. Q. M. G., Captain Drake-Brockman, 5th Bengal Infantry.

Intelligence Officer, Capt. Wingate, 14th Bengal Lancers.

Principal Medical Officer, Colonel Connor, I.M.S.

Commanding Royal Engineers, Major Prendergast, R.E.

Field Engineers, Captains Pierson and Rolland, R.E.

Assistant Field Engineers, Lieutenants Henderson and Brunner (the latter for telegraphs).

Provost Marshal and Head of Police, Captain Lane, 1st Punjab Cavalry.

Special Service Officers, Major Gould-Adams, R. A., and Captain Adye, Hyderabad Contingent.

Special Service Officers for treaty ports, Captains Tweedell, 22nd Bengal Infantry, and Rennick, 40th Pathans.

Ordnance Officer, Captain Woods, R.A.

Chief Commissariat and Transport Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bond.

Assistant Commissariat and Transport Officers, Captains Forteach and Crippa, Lieuts. Young and Longridge.

Senior Transport Officer, Captain Luch, 23rd Madras Infantry.

Assistant Transport Officers, Lieuts. Sproule, 4th Rajputs, and Cotton, Hyderabad Contingent.

Senior Veterinary Officer, Lieutenant Aze. Director of Railways, Major Clem. Browne, R.E.

Railway Staff (Royal Engineers), Major Craster, Lieuts. Hunter, Feeland, Cowie, Chaldecott, Mahon and F. G. Turner.

Railway Staff Officers, Major Whittall, Hyderabad Contingent, Captains Dansterville, 20th Punjab Infantry, Dick, 2nd Punjab Cavalry, Maxwell, 16th Punjab Infantry, Mensies, South Lancashire Regiment, Lieuts. Heale, South Staffordshire Regiment, and Twiss, 25th Madras Infantry.

Railway Police, Lieuts. Cox, 16th Bengal Lancers, and Keble, 14th M. I. (graded as Staff Captains).

Postal Service, Mr. Thompson.

The Staff at Shanghai will be: General Officer Commanding, Brigadier General Richardson.

D. A. A. and Q. M. G., Capt. Colomb, 4th Gurkhas.

Field Intelligence Officer, Capt. Selwyn, 19th Bengal Cavalry.

Provost Marshal, Captain Rose, 1st Gurkhas. Commissariat Officer, Lieut. Turpin.

The following officers will be employed temporarily under the provisional government at Tientsin: Lieut.-Col. Bower, Capt. Mockler, 5th Burma Battalion, Capt. Duckat, 4th Bombay Cavalry, 2nd Lieut. Hall, 34th Pioneers.

AUSTRALIAN VAUDEVILLE COMPANY AT THE THEATRE.

Our latest visitors have reason for satisfaction at the success attending their opening performance in the Theatre Royal on Wednesday night. Only in the circle could the audience be described as sparse, and that the entertainment met with its unqualified approval was evidenced in the encores that greeted each fresh turn. One good feature is the orchestra—the band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers—which opened the first part of the programme with the spirited intermezzo "Salome." This part included an opening chorus by the company, "The Belle of New York," and ballads, serio-comic, operatic, waltz and end songs, besides a specialty, "Richmond Gems," by the Sisters Linwood. Perhaps the best turn of all was Miss Annie Moore's "Soldiers in the Park," for which she was loudly encored, and the last verse of which she repeated twice. She and Miss Jessie Forde, who sang "Funiculi" very sweetly, and who was also encored, were presented with bouquets. In view of the hot weather the audience in its repeated demands for encores were a trifle inconsiderate, especially in the case of Mr. W. H. Horley, whose acrobatic variation in his song, "My Anna Liza," doubtless proved a strain on the performer. The entire company, which is in continuous occupation of the stage throughout the performance, carried itself with an energy and effect that left nothing to be desired. Certainly they deserve good attentances during their stay in Hongkong, and we hope to see the dress circle as well filled as the lower part of the house undoubtedly was on Wednesday night.

Thursday's performance fully confirmed the good impression of the previous night, and every turn went off amid applause; but the attendance was again inadequate to the merits of the Company.

The lateness of the hour at which the opening entertainment on Wednesday night finished prevented us from dealing with the second part of the programme in Thursday's issue. This part consisted on Thursday night, as also at the opening performance, of nine items, and concluded with a sketch entitled *The Rival Lovers*. Prof. W. A. Davis's ventriloquial entertainment was clever, and showed him to be in complete mastery of his voice, which was heard now here, now there, in tones sometimes high, sometimes almost inaudible, as the imaginary speaker moved about the stage. This capital turn concluded with a realistic imitation by the voice of the sound caused by a saw going through wood. The remaining items were also of good merit, and, as was the case earlier in the night, were encored unstintingly.

DEATH OF MR. ARNOT REID.

It is with much regret that we learn from the Straits papers of the death at his home in Scotland of Mr. Arnot Reid, late Editor of the *Straits Times*. The news was contained in a telegram from Glasgow which arrived at Singapore on the morning of the 23rd ult. Both Mr. and Mrs. Reid were known in Hongkong, and Mr. Reid has on various occasions contributed to these columns. The *Straits Times* has the following obituary notice:—

Mr. Reid first arrived in Singapore in October, 1888, when he took charge of the editorial department of this paper. He left Singapore for home, via South Africa, exactly a year ago. On reaching England, he fell ill, and although but little of a personal nature has been heard of him since then, it is presumed that the first attack of illness remained with him till the date of his death.

Mr. Reid worked hard and with ability in Singapore, and apart from being a man of wonderful ability as a journalist, he was possessed of great business acumen. He was a brilliant and capable writer, as the columns of the *Straits Times* during his period of management show.

Mr. Reid went home four times, first for the benefit of his health, secondly for his marriage, thirdly in a spirit of adventure, when he went across Siberia to Europe—a trip which resulted in his authorship of a narrative of travel: *From Peking to Petersburg*; and fourthly, via South

Africa in July last year. Mr. Reid promoted several good works in Singapore—notably the Indian Famine and South African War Relief Funds; and just before his departure he was the prime mover in the formation of the Singapore Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Mr. Reid was born in Glasgow, and was educated chiefly at the High School of his native city. His father was a chartered accountant, and the deceased gentleman's earlier years were passed amid the bustle of commerce. He subsequently became the proprietor of, and the chief writer in a local illustrated journal called *Quiz*. After filling for some time the editorial chair of the *Glasgow Evening News*, when the *Edinburgh Courier* and the *Glasgow News* were incorporated with the *Scotch News*, Mr. Reid accepted the assistant editorship of the last named journal. In November of 1885, Mr. Reid contested Camlachie, the most Radical division of Glasgow, in the Conservative interest. He visited America, and in New York, Boston, and Montreal, made himself acquainted with the details of journalism as conducted in that part of the world. Among his contributions to the *Morning Post*, *Morning Chronicle*, and *Nineteenth Century*, may be selected, as *a propos* of the subject, his articles in the last named paper entitled, "How a Provincial Paper is Managed," "Twenty-four Hours in a Newspaper Office," and "The English and American Press."

Mr. Reid, as has been stated, became editor and manager of the *Straits Times* in 1888, in succession to Mr. Adams, who had died a few months previously of fever caught while extinguishing a fire which had broken out in the old office of the paper, in Change Alley. He continued in charge until the paper changed hands in June, 1900.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 30th July.

INTERESTING FARMING EXPERIMENT.

When a few years ago Mr. José Ribeiro, a well-known and much respected citizen, acquired a large plot of land on the outskirts of the city, then in its pristine condition, who would have said that it was but the initial step of a private scheme for the establishment of a farm on thoroughly modern and scientific lines? Yet so it proved to be, and the latent spirit of enterprise of the Macaenses was not slow to assert itself when the prospects of success became seemingly hopeful. Soon the land that lay fallow for many decades under its former ownership was taken in hand, and before many months had elapsed the thick undergrowth of shrubbery within the boundaries of the land had been removed and worthless trees felled and converted into firewood. Then the work of laying the land out for the purpose for which it was acquired began in real earnest, and with businesslike despatch the buildings were erected and with like expedition completed. They consist of a large cowhouse of brick with tiled roof, capable of housing a large number of animals, with a miniature segregation camp; a piggery, an extensive poultry-yard fenced in by wire netting after the most approved style, gardeners' and caretakers' cottages with out-houses; and lastly, though not the least feature of the improvements, a cozy little bungalow designed for its enterprising owner's summer afternoon retreat. When all these improvements have been taken within the purview of an even uninitiated visitor in the art of farming it must strike him, as it did your correspondent, that a considerable outlay must have been made in furtherance of a prospective remunerative industry. The business instinct animated the scheme, for in a short time some fine heads of Australian cattle occupied their places in the stalls set apart for them. They were placed under the immediate supervision of three Europeans assisted by a staff of Chinese. Swine from Australia and Portugal also found their places in the neat little sties, and rare specimens of European fowls, not to speak of the ordinary Chinese hens, and turkeys strutted about the yards. Altogether the place presented quite a picturesque scene of farm life. It was pleasing to see the energies of at least one of the sons of the

soil turned in a new direction in a land where Nature bountifully provided the remunerative means for productive farming enterprise. But, alas! Fate ordained otherwise with Mr. José Ribeiro. Just as he was beginning to reap the harvest of his honest labour, a severe epidemic of cattle plague that proved so disastrous to cattle breeders in the two Kwang provinces and which visited your Colony also, to the loss of the Dairy Farm Co., as will be remembered, made its presence felt even in this isolated spot, the subject of the present article. Such was the virulence of the epidemic that before any preventive measures could be taken to segregate the healthy from the infected animals, all the most valuable heads had been attacked and a fine and costly herd of Colonial cows was lost to its enterprising owner—all save a couple of country-breds. Such a discouraging disaster would have sufficed to thwart the best efforts for future success; but nothing daunted, Mr. Ribeiro has tenaciously held to his pet scheme. This time he has adopted a rather different and, shall we say, a more cautious, plan. Instead of importing, as he did on the first occasion, full grown milch cows, a pretty lot of Queensland calves has been substituted. So far the experiment of acclimatising the little family of "Colonials" has proved successful beyond Mr. Ribeiro's most sanguine expectations. The calves have grown to a good size and look in the very pink of condition, and if they continue the splendid progress of growth they have thus far attained, it is not too much to expect that the owner will be rewarded for the heavy losses he has sustained through all the long years of persevering and waiting before his second attempt yields its fruit of success. Looking at this success, which is within measurable distance of a purely private venture, it is of little or no concern to the public at large. But regarding the farm as an important source whence good and cheap milk can be obtained for dietary purposes, if not for luxury alone, our citizens are sure to hail its success. Your correspondent writes from experience that a sore need will be supplied when this model little farm yields its produce with the regularity it is expected to do under normal conditions.

A NEW LIGHTING SCHEME.

A petition was presented to the Governor last month by Henry Davidson Woolfe and Porphyrio Nolasco da Silva, praying that the privilege of lighting the city by electricity might be exclusively granted to them for certain considerations. The concessions asked by the petitioners are so extensive in their nature, and the conditions by which the proposed contract is hedged in are so unfavourable to the colony, that the service they undertake to establish cannot be considered as sufficiently compensating. When it is proposed "to locate and supply fifty arc-lights of 2,000 c. p. and two hundred incandescent lamps of 16 c. p." it may be pertinently asked if the concessionaires in their undertaking "to instal a service of the most modern type for the purpose of generating electricity and afford the best possible lighting," can reasonably hope to light the whole city adequately. It is safe to say that Macao is at present efficiently lighted considering the nature and extent of its limited traffic. Combined with efficiency the moderate cost of the present system should in itself render any change wholly undesirable. In the Municipal budget recently published the cost of public lighting is set down at \$9,829.76 for the year 1901-2, and the contract has been let to one Cheong Pak. In the event of any change being contemplated during the currency of the contract, it can be terminated on three months' notice being given to the contractor. Messrs. Woolfe and Silva's petition was transmitted by the Governor to the Municipal Council for their consideration, and they will be well advised if they recommend its rejection in the interest of the colony. If the Treasury has any money to spare, let it be utilised to the further improvement of existing and the initiation of new public works having for their object the promotion of commerce and public health. In the present state of Macao's internal condition the lighting of the city is, as already stated, as creditable as can be expected.

A SUCCESSFUL THEATRICAL SHOW.

On the 20th instant a very successful performance, got up by the non-commissioned

officers of the Garrison and of the Expeditionary Force, was held at the Teatro D. Pedro V., kindly lent by the Committee for the occasion. The performance was held in aid of the orphans under the charge of the Italian Sisters of Charity. It was very largely attended, among those present being His Excellency the Governor and the *élite* of Macao. The promoters' efforts in so beneficent a cause were amply rewarded. In donations and tickets sold a sum of over \$400 gross was collected. This speaks much for the charitable disposition of a small community in a colony of such slender means.

MANILA.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 27th July.

THE PHILIPPINE CIVIL SERVICE.

Work is so well advanced toward the establishment of a civil service system for the Philippines as to make possible at this time a forecast of what that system will be when the new government shall get into full operation. The framework devised represents the sum of experiences elsewhere, modified by local conditions or adapted to them. There was nothing to undo in the beginning. No civil service existed, and rules had to provide for a government wholly new. They seem certainly to have been logically framed, for the merit plan on which they are based is so comprehensive that it will include nearly every civil position in the islands. A person entering the service in low grade may learn the branch of his choice as he would a business, his advancement depending on the diligence and ability shown in the discharge of his duties. One of the Commissioners visited India and China, to study the colonial and customs services respectively in those countries. Another is an expert in the United States system. The third, about to retire from the Board, is the ablest lawyer in the Philippines, and is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. They do not profess that it is yet a perfect scheme, but they stand by it as the best they could devise, and they are willing to be judged by its operation.

Out of several thousand applicants, examined, about 900 have succeeded in getting their names on the eligible list. Admission to that list is conditioned on an average marking of 70 per cent. on the subjects of examination. When the service shall be fully organized it will employ in round numbers 5,000 persons. All of the offices of the central government except the highest, all the provincial offices except those of Governor and Attorney and all the municipal offices which are not elective will be filled by civil service regulation, applied in one form or another. Education and character will be the tests, and natives will be encouraged as far as possible to equip themselves for public service. To this end it is not unlikely that when the higher public schools shall be organized, provision will be made, through elective studies or otherwise, for training in lines adapted to practical use in the civil service of the islands. Native aptitude for penmanship, for book-keeping, for drawing and for other work requiring deft fingers can be helped in the schools, so that graduates who may have elected a course preparatory for public service, will find positions ready for them at the start, with chances of advancement according to the way they acquit themselves.

AMERICANS AND NATIVES.

It is assumed by the Commission that Americans will not in large numbers seek positions which natives may be qualified to occupy. Just now many Americans wish to remain in the island, but the great majority of them are looking for something beyond clerical places in the civil service. Volunteers who think they see business chances ahead, but who have not the money to take advantage of them, are seeking positions in the civil service to help them through. They will leave the service as soon as they think they need it no longer. Others are going into it aimlessly because they cannot now think of anything better. The average American who can fill creditably a position here could do as well at home. Living as Americans wish to live is quite as costly as in the United States. It is particularly expensive in Manila. The natural longing for home which men feel

after the novelty of tropical life has worn off, will complete the stay here of this official flotilla in the not distant future. Those who remain, attached to the service, will be tempted by more money than they could make at home, or by some special consideration.

Natives will thus in time almost inevitably fill nearly all of the places for which they may be qualified. The chief places will have enough honour or salary attached to them to make them perhaps desirable to Americans.

Positions requiring professional, technical or scientific skill will doubtless for a long time have American incumbents. At present there are places for stenographers and typewriters, interpreters and translators, customs inspectors and accountants; but even in such places, pay quite as good if not better can be earned in the United States by persons competent in their various lines. England has had much such experience in India as faces the United States here in respect to the civil service. The policy there which encourages native employment has worked so well and has been sustained by so many good reasons that its adoption here, so far as circumstances will permit, follows almost as a matter of course. Examinations to be held in the United States under the Civil Service Commission, for positions in the islands, will not include any for junior grades, because it will not pay Americans to come out to fill them, and doubtless gradually they will become even more restricted as native proficiency develops.

Americans will probably continue to fill for a long time positions which may be reached under the law by promotion. The Insular Treasurer, Insular Auditor, Insular Collector of Customs, Insular Collector of Internal Revenue, Insular Director of Posts, Chief of the Bureau of Forestry, Chief of the Bureau of Mines, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Members of the Civil Service Board will be Americans for an indefinite period, except that one Member of the Civil Service Board, out of three members, is likely to be a Filipino. The law provides, however, that after 18 months from the time that the Board shall certify that it has a sufficient list of eligibles to supply vacancies, any of these offices may be filled by promotion and without examination from a class to be composed of the first, second and third assistants in the respective departments. As any American may become President, so any Filipino may become a big chief; but for practical purposes, so far as natives now above ground need concern themselves, one chance is about as long as the other. It may eventually happen that natives will become competent to fill some or all of these positions, but that prospect should bother no one at present.

METHOD OF PROMOTION.

The basic principle of the service is that of promotion through several grades. Persons once in the service are in the way of improving their condition through efficiency and good conduct. The entrance examination is the only one that will usually be required, the original certificate of eligibility being considered proof of fitness in the first instance, and the recommendation of superiors or the records made in advanced places answering for later purposes. This rule does not bar the Board from ordering examinations for promotion whenever it may see fit.

A RACE DIFFICULTY.

The presence of Americans here in considerable numbers, by reason of the expiration of volunteer army service and otherwise, has provoked complaint and criticism which put the Civil Service Board just now in an unfortunate position. Under the provision which permits heads of departments, after making requisition for help, to select from three eligibles whose names the Board furnishes, Americans have almost invariably been preferred. Criticism points to the requirement of the law in relation to preferences, which is that the only preference allowed in appointments, other things being equal, must favour first natives of the islands, and then honourably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines. Since applicants may elect, whether they shall be examined in Spanish or in English, those taking the Spanish examination for certain grades have done so feeling that the law promised them as much consideration as it promised those whose papers were in English. The habitual bestowal of appointments for which they had

become eligible upon Americans has led to complaints of bad faith. Appointing officers fall back on their discretionary privileges in explaining their course, or justify it on the ground that qualifications were not equal, since the Spanish applicants did not understand English. Since lack of English had not disqualified them for examination or for eligibility, this plea does not improve their opinion of official sincerity. On top of this injury, the officials piled the insult of tendering to native applicants positions in grades lower than those for which they had been examined and become eligible. Natives who passed for clerkships thus found themselves appointed messengers. Such appointments have been so frequently declined as to make almost imperative some assurance by the Board to prevent natives from thinking that it is not intended to give them fair play. Members of the Board have already felt constrained to excuse the omission in the Manual of Information of notice that eligibles acquainted with English would be preferred over those unacquainted with it, by saying that they did not anticipate such a preference. No reflection need be cast down on the good intentions of the Board in declaring the omission to have been so faulty or short-sighted as to call for prompt amends, lest the system suffers discredit in the native mind and many worthy persons whom the law hoped to invite to public service be discouraged from attempting to enter it. Of course many places civil in their functions existed under military government. The work must be done under civil rule, and those who are doing it are probably not to be thrown out because of the change. Many will go as soon as they can be spared, because they hold military commissions and have been performing their present duties under assignment. On the other hand, some of the officers assigned are volunteers, who find themselves "footloose" at about the time civil authority is becoming supreme, and who can do better for the service where they are than new men could do at once. The rules permit the retention of such persons in the places they hold. Should the Board think it advisable to order examinations it may do so, but they may be omitted in the Board's discretion, which will probably be exercised that way in view of the vigorous protest against a recent examination order.

THE CIVIL EMPLOYEES.

The number of employees in civil work amounts now to more than 4,300, of whom 200 are army and navy officers, 180 are enlisted men, nearly 400 are American civilians, and the remainder are natives or long residents of the islands. The army and navy officers are in nearly all cases heads or assistants of bureaus, or collectors of customs or of internal revenue. Such places will for the present be held generally by Americans, whatever the depletion in the existing force. Some of the provincial appointments made by the Civil Commission have been from this list, and usually they were made at the suggestion or upon the petition of natives. Since this shows that the work has been so well done as to command native admiration, it almost follows that if Americans are continued in such places, little or no complaint will come from natives on that account. The enlisted men detailed for civil places have been filling clerkships, teaching schools, and in various ways assisting the higher officers. Some of the men have done so well as school teachers that the Civil Commission promised to undertake to secure their discharge in order that they may be regularly transferred to the force of teachers of English. It was at Capir, in Panay, that a schoolboy addressed a speech of welcome to the Commission, and did it so well as to make the incident one of the most memorable of the southern trip. This boy was the pupil of a private regular soldier, who had gone 30 miles back into the mountain country to teach the children English. The same soldier brought down several of his pupils to show how they could sing in English, which they did very well, making almost needless his assurance that they knew not only the tunes but also the meaning of the words that they sang. The Commission felt that the sort of material in that teacher could do better shooting service for the country with young ideas than in the uniformed ranks, and Private

George T. Schoens, of the Eighteenth Infantry, will doubtless find his talents employed in the future in his new field. There are other instances less conspicuous illustrating the good work soldiers have been doing among the schools. They have confined themselves mainly to English teaching, but the readiness with which soldiers fit into their environment has enabled some of them to pick up the dialects and to make profitable use of them in their work. Now that teachers of English are to go out among the islands, they will find that what soldiers have done, if not systematic, has been practically helpful in making the ground hungry for seed. The Civil Service Board has been in something of a quandary in regard to the action it should take toward bringing school-teachers under its supervision. Teachers now arriving from the United States come so highly recommended for experience and other qualifications, and their stay as teachers is likely to be so short, that the Board has not felt it necessary to advise that they have its certificates. Native teachers who are to be trained in normal institutes and in the Normal College will have diplomas or something of that kind to show their training. Since the Board is disposed to accept as sufficient guarantee of fitness recommendations brought by teachers from normal schools or colleges in the United States, it is difficult to figure out how teachers' examinations can be held under civil service rules.

THE CHOICE OF TEACHERS.

It seems particularly true here at this time that knowledge of books is not the prime essential in a teacher's equipment. A person able to pass a perfect examination may do poorly in a native school. Soldiers have succeeded whose papers would be thrown out by any examiner. They had patience and sympathy, and managed to create a friendly bond between themselves and their pupils. Success for anyone under other conditions is extremely doubtful. The experience of the teachers coming from the United States seems to have been in the lines required here. Such experience, at any rate, and such qualifications were in mind when these selections were made. The Board will experiment in this matter before settling upon a policy in relation to the examination of teachers. It is probable that the experiments will at first be conducted through the Civil Service Commission in the United States, and will be applied here if they seem to work well there. In any case, certificates of graduation or other vouchers from normal schools or colleges will always count high in the selection of teachers.

THE VARIOUS NATIONS.

The present list of employees for civil work contains 3,600 names of persons classified as natives, Spaniards, or Chinese. Nearly all of them are natives. They fill clerkships and other subordinate places, and they do it creditably. As the eligible list grows, many of them will doubtless be submitted to examination in order to test their fitness for the positions they hold. There will be no disposition to remove those who do their work well, the aim being rather to provide that it shall be done in the best manner in all branches of the service. Spaniards have the native facility for keeping books neatly and for performing other details of a clerical nature. The Chinese employees consist of an interpreter, one or two men around the Custom House to pass upon the character and value of the mass of imports from China that reach here, and health inspectors for Chinese residences. About 1,000 in the large list are unskilled labourers. It is enough if they can do what they are hired to do. Of the enlisted men, nearly 100 are detailed as checkers on foreign vessels and as inspectors. Their places when their terms of enlistment expire can be filled by native clerks, if need be.

POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

It is not yet settled how police and fire departments will be supplied for permanent account. The police force in this city has been particularly efficient, being composed in part of natives and in part of selected volunteer soldiers. They make a fine appearance, are under good discipline and preserve order. The Board has no fault to find, but since the police will become attached to the civil establishment, the Board feels, as it does in respect to teachers, new technically exempt, that a suitable test should be provided as a condition of employ-

ment. Conditions have not been such as to make it expedient to interfere with the method of selection under military rule. It is expected that the time may soon come when selection may be justified for police, fire and prison guard service on some such basis as prevails in various cities in the United States. Whatever rules may be adopted will provide a simple educational test and a thorough physical test. In regard to labourers, there will of course be no test at any time, but they are to be protected in a way. Whenever they may be discharged by reason of a reduction in force, they shall be furnished with discharge-cards if their work and conduct have been satisfactory, upon presentation of which they will be preferred in subsequent appointments as vacancies occur.

SALARIES.

Civil employees will be divided into classes on the basis of pay, regardless of the departments engaging them. The minimum salary in the first class will be £600 and the maximum pay in the lowest class will be £48 per year. All pay is to be in United States currency. Engagements have been made on the basis of Mexican dollars, but they have been adjusted to the new medium, the law providing that the ratio of the two currencies shall be as two to one. Clerkships requiring fair proficiency with accounts come about midway in the class list, and will pay from £180 to £240 per year.

Those who pass examinations in the United States must pay their own expenses to San Francisco, but from that point they are under salary, and expenses are allowed them. Since others have come here drawing salaries from the time of their appointment, and expenses from their homes, justification for the change is claimed on the ground that those arriving earlier often came under urgent call for what might be termed emergency duty. Under the new practice, there will be pay during the voyage of a month, and expenses for that time, this allowance offsetting, in the Board's opinion, any expense that may be incurred in the trip to San Francisco from the employee's home. The Board expects to have fully 1,000 eligibles ready for places as soon as the civil government shall be ready to take them on.

PEKING.

Peking, 17th July.

RETRIBUTION.

Mr. Joostens, the Belgian Minister, was engaged a few days since with some German soldiers in putting up the corner posts of the new Belgian Legation that will be erected on the site of the home of old Hsü Tung, the most intensely anti-foreign man who encouraged the Boxer fizzle. Hsü committed suicide on the entrance of the Allies into the capital, and his son was beheaded some months since by the Japanese along with Ch'i Hsin. It is to be hoped the Belgians will soon improve their property, for the unsightly ruin of the Hsü family palace is the only site on Legation street that has not been improved or in process of improving since the siege.

THE REBELS AT POYEH.

Two days since, a messenger from General Chang, Commander in Chihli of Governor Yuan Shih-kai's foreign-drilled troops, sent word to Li Hung-chang that the rebels in Poyehhsien, west of Paoingfu, were well armed with modern rifles, as they were composed largely of the deserters from Nieh's army defeated at Tientsin, together with ex-Boxers and thieves generally, and that being all proscribed men, they would fight desperately. He therefore begged that the thousand foreign-drilled troops already sent to reinforce the defeated General Li Ken-yuan might be increased to two thousand.

A RUMOUR OF A DEFEAT.

A rumour was current that these rebels after defeating General Li had also defeated a French force of four hundred, and Paoingfu, fearing them, had closed its gates. This rumour proved to be unfounded. The French to the number stated, viz., four hundred, had gone to General Li's assistance, but up to present writing no further news has been heard from either them or Yuan Shin-kai's troops en route to the same place. Should this combined force be defeated, and it is certainly a possible contingency, the rebels whose prestige is already

considerable, will indeed be a source of danger—even to the capital.

THE TSUNGLI YAMEN BUILDINGS, vacated and looted after the siege, have again been put in order and are occupied by the members of that formerly interesting and obstructive body. The hole for the base of the Kettler monument on Hatamen street is now twenty feet deep and the workmen are still digging away on it. One wonders if a second Washington monument is contemplated.

PRINCE CHUN

left us quietly on his apologetic mission to Germany, Sir Robert Hart and a few other notables escorting him to the station. While it has been authoritatively stated by Li Hung-chang that the Imperial University will be reopened in the autumn, no date has been fixed as yet, nor has a chancellor been appointed. In the meantime Mr. J. M. Allardye's English school, now numbering nearly one hundred and fifty students, has been granted permission to use the buildings for recitations and study halls.

ROAD-MAKING.

The Germans have repaired the macadamised road on Hatamen Street from the gate to the Tahpailou, a much-needed improvement.

THE POST OFFICE.

All the native buildings on the west side of the street have been torn down to make the military glacis, excepting the old temple, where the Imperial Chinese Post Office holds forth. This too must soon go, although why steps have not been taken to rebuild the government Post Office only the inscrutable I. G. knows. The I.P.O. is not a very up-to-date institution. The mail cannot be despatched on the day received. It could be by sending it on the 10 a.m. train, but it is not. Why? Ask the I. G.

MILITARY UNIFORMS.

while not as frequent on the streets as a few months since, and perceptibly less, are still too frequent to suit either Chinese or civil residents. Tientsin, I am told, also agrees to this. This is an ungrateful world perhaps, but the fact is, while we were mighty glad to see the soldiers coming, we will be almighty glad to see them go.

HOT WEATHER.

which has been playing sad havoc in Europe and America, has at last reached Peking, and breathing has become a labourious task, to say nothing of eating, while tennis and other exercise, excepting only fanning, are not to be thought of. Aerated liquid concerns are steadily getting rid of their highly-watered stock.

THE NEW GERMAN POST OFFICE.

is nearing completion; it is a substantial two-storey building on Wall Street just east of the Canal bridge. Following the precedent set by the greedy Legations for expansion, it has encroached upon the road to such an extent as to shut off half the width of the bridge. An utterly inexcusable proceeding.—N.C. Daily News.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the Peking and Tientsin Times of the 20th inst. —

Tls. 4,000 has been voted for the construction of a boat for the Imperial party on the Yellow River.

Li Hung-chang is endeavouring to get the French Minister to remove the terminus of the Pao-ting line outside the West Gate.

Hu Yu-mei has been recommended by Li Hung-chang to take over the Imperial Railways when they are handed over by the British.

Large quantities of assorted railway material have been coming to Tientsin from Port Arthur for the Luhn Railway. Where they originally came from is not stated.

Gen. Mei is reported to have been attacking and to have killed several Native Christians a short distance from here. We do not know whether there is any truth in it.

Rumour has it that a much larger Russian force than originally anticipated will be retained here. The Russian troops are at the moment still engaged with disturbances in Manchuria.

Li Hung-chang is reported to have censured four high officials for their anti-foreign conservatism. The memorial however fell into

the wrong hands and has never reached the Throne.

Li Hung-chang is stated to be endeavouring to establish a Chinese Municipality in Peking, in order to run the City on foreign lines. It is to be an expensive accessory only and not a substitution for the old style, and therefore useless.

The *Je Je* has been publishing some story to the effect that Russia is busy in Tibet, and has declared a sort of protectorate over the country, offering to constitute a republican form of Government there. A similar rumour has filtered out from home, but we cannot pretend to know whether the idea has any foundation.

General Gaselee, accompanied by Col. O'Sullivan, Capt Pell and other members of the Staff, arrived by special train from Peking at 2 p.m. on Sunday (14th July), and drove at once in a carriage drawn by four horses to the residence of Mr. Ed. Cousins. He was met at the station by Gen. Lorne Campbell and Staff, a guard of honour being furnished by the Hongkong Regiment, with the band, and a strong contingent of Japanese. General Gaselee inspected the Japanese troops and the men of the Hongkong Regiment under Major Little, and shook hands with his fellow officers before entering his carriage, a detachment of Bengal Lancers escorting the General to Ewo. General Gaselee was at home to all officers of the force on Tuesday, and was busily engaged throughout the day in farewell audiences, and consultations with Generals Campbell and Creagh. General Reid arrived from Shanhaikwan by special train on Tuesday at noon, and put up at the Astor House, and the four Generals had a meeting during the day. General Gaselee, attended by Capt Pell, A.D.C., and accompanied by General Creagh with Capt Norman, left for Shanhaikwan at 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning, their departure at such an early hour being necessarily of a private nature. They embarked at Shanhaikwan in H.M.S. *Orlando* for Weihaiwei, where General Gaselee hands over the command of the British forces in North China to General Creagh on Sunday (to-morrow), and then proceeds home via Japan and Canada. General Creagh accompanied by Mrs. Creagh will then return to Tientsin and Gen. Lorne Campbell leaves early next month. General Reid, who is also going home via Japan and America, left here on Wednesday evening.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

BATHS FOR CHINESE WOMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
31st July.

SIR,—I see in H.E. the Governor's letter to the Secretary of State, published in your paper of this date, that he proposes one or two bath-houses for the use of the Chinese working women. May I suggest that, in lieu of the ordinary matched, a ground floor of a Chinese house be rented in the required locality and fitted up for their use, as a bath-house. By doing this the Chinese ideas of privacy would be respected, and I am sure if this is carried out, the Chinese working women in large numbers would make use of such a place.

Thanking you in anticipation for inserting the above.—Yours, etc.,

S.

THE CITY HALL—A PARSEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
31st July.

SIR,—Early last month when the late D. S. Gotla of the City Hall died of plague, some reckless statements were made in the papers wherein discredit was sought to be thrown on the City Hall Committee and on the local Parsee leaders, but they were then and there refuted by Mr. Bowley and others. The matter has now been taken up by the *Rast Goftar*, an influential Anglo-Parsee weekly of Bombay, in its issue of the 7th inst., incidentally the exact date of Mr. Bowley's refutation the

previous month, and the writer being a Parsee penetrates through the whole affair as affecting the Parsees, absolves them from what might otherwise be a charge of base ingratitude, and attributes such irresponsible writings to animus and bad taste. The Bombay writer will rejoice and be grateful when he reads this and knows that, thanks to the prompt sympathy and initiative of the popular President of the local Parsee community, Mr. H. N. Mody, and the cheerful response of the courteous Secretary and his Committee, the family of the deceased Parsee have been voted a handsome gratuity, for which act of appreciation the Committee and the Secretary deserve the best thanks of those immediately concerned.

A PARSEE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

1st August.

SIR,—Under the pretence of gratefully acknowledging the donation of \$150 which the Committee of the City Hall has very kindly granted to the family of the late Mr. D. S. Gotla, your correspondent, taking a safe shelter behind the signature of "A Parsee," tries to attack me in your to-day's issue by characterising certain statements I made in my letter published in your issue of the 6th June, in connection with the plague and the Parsees, as reckless and in bad taste. He seems to raise a loud chorus of hallelujahs over the fact that the *Rast Goftar* a weekly Parsee newspaper published in Bombay, of the 7th July, commented adversely on the publication of my letter in your issue of the 6th June. The paper in question distinctly says that there is a good deal of truth in my complaint, viz., that though Hongkong is the first source and birth-place of bubonic plague, no arrangements were made for opening a separate ward or shed in the plague hospital for nursing the plague-stricken Parsees, though the plague assumed such a serious aspect, and though the funds at the disposal of the trustees of the Parsee community were enough to meet such expenses. The main fault that the editor of the *Rast Goftar* newspaper finds with me is, that I did not bring forward my complaint in the proper way, and that by publishing my letter I offended the feelings of the trustees!

The editor sees in this course motives of jealousy and enmity, animus and bad taste. In short, sir, read between lines, the ultimate aim and object of the editor of the *Rast Goftar* and your sophisticated correspondent is to gag my mouth, and prevent me in future from bringing to light any grievance or complaint our community may have. A good deal has also been made out of the reply of Mr. Bowley which you published in your issue of the 7th June, though I may say I have never sought in my letter to throw any discredit on the City Hall Committee or Mr. Bowley directly, or indirectly. All I said, and all I still say is that instead of leaving the plague-stricken Parsees to be looked after by one or two friends as best they could, means should be devised by the trustees to have them removed to the hospital, and placed under the care of a competent nurse and doctor engaged specially for the purpose, immediately the patient is in a state of high fever. There is nothing wrong in bringing the needs of the community to the notice of the heads of the community through the weighty channels of a newspaper.

Let, therefore, the leaders of the Parsee community not countenance such objectionable methods, but let them come out, and openly and categorically contradict me, whenever they find any of my statements or complaints made in the public newspapers exaggerated or false, a course at once straight, just, and dignified.—Yours, etc.,

D. S. DADY BURJOR.

A *New Press* telegram of the 20th ult. from Peking says:—A duel took place, it is reported, a few days ago in Peking between a British and a Russian officer. The Russian made some offensive remarks with regard to the British army, in the hearing of the Englishman, who retaliated. A duel followed, the details of which have been kept secret. It is reported that the British officer wounded the Russian.

HONGKONG CANTON AND MACAO STEAM-BOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report of the board of directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Company, on Tuesday, the 6th August, at 12 o'clock, noon:—

After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs and all other outgoings, there remains, including \$51,580.55 brought forward from last account, the sum of \$271,506.62 at credit of profit and loss account. From this amount the directors recommend that a dividend for the half-year of 10 per cent. on capital of \$120,000, be paid to shareholders, that \$50,000 be written off the book value of steamers and launches, and that \$50,000 be placed at credit of equalisation of dividend fund, leaving a balance of \$51,506.62 to be carried forward to new account.

With the appropriation recommended, the equalisation of dividend fund will amount to \$200,000.

During the six months under review, business on the main lines has been exceptionally good, but the directors regret that they are still unable to report any improvement in the state of affairs on the West River, and although the new stern-wheel steamers are liked by passengers and are well adapted to the trade, they are not likely, under existing conditions, to do more than cover running expenses.

The usual overhaul and repairs have been effected during the half-year, and the steamers are all in good running order. In view of the necessity for increased wharfage accommodation at Canton, the directors have acquired a suitable site for the purpose at a cost of \$37,000.

The value of the Company's investments in shares has been adjusted to figures well within present market rates, the difference being passed to the credit of investment fluctuation account. The loans on mortgage all show ample margins on the sums advanced.

Upon leaving the colony, the Honourable J. J. Keswick resigned his seat at the Board, and the directors have nominated the Honourable J. J. Bell-Irving to fill the vacancy, subject to confirmation by the shareholders at this meeting. In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. N. A. Siebs and A. Haupt retire from the board of direction by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The retiring auditors, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Henderson, also offer themselves for re-election.

J. J. BELL-IRVING,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 27th July, 1901.

The following are the accounts:—

30th June, 1901.	ASSETS.	\$	c.
Value of steamers <i>Powan</i> , <i>Honam</i> and <i>Houngshan</i> and 1/3 of <i>Fatshan</i>		675,000.00	
Value of steam-launches <i>Lungshan</i> and <i>Lungkiang</i>		42,625.00	
Value of 1/3 share of West River steamers <i>Nanning</i> and <i>Sainam</i>		88,000.00	
Value of lighters <i>Sun Lee</i> and <i>Wo Lee</i> ..		11,500.00	
Value of wharves, hulks, and moorings ..		25,840.45	
Value of properties at Canton, Wuchow and Kongkun		45,049.57	
Value of coal, stores, and spare gear		18,985.60	
Value of furniture		750.00	
Value of shares in public companies		553,192.50	
Value of Chinese bonds		1,034.43	
Loans on mortgage		776,000.00	
Short loans on security		87,000.00	
Cash with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation		51,608.85	
Interest accrued to date		1,827.72	
Premium on marine policies unexpired ..		8,605.83	
Sundry debtors		12,813.23	
		\$2,459,833.23	

30th June, 1901.	LIABILITIES.	\$	c.
Amount of capital, 80,000 shares of \$15 each, fully paid up		1,200,000.00	
Amount at credit of depreciation and insurance fund		600,000.00	
Amount at credit of equalisation of dividend fund		150,000.00	
Amount at credit of investment fluctuation account		209,497.18	
Unclaimed dividends		19,817.00	
Sundry creditors		8,832.53	
Amount at credit of profit and loss account ..		271,506.62	
		\$2,459,833.23	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

30th June, 1901.	Dr.	\$ c.
To amount paid for repairs to steamers	...	35,192.40
To directors' and auditors' fees	...	3,250.00
To balance to be appropriated, viz.:		
Dividend at 10 per cent. on \$1,200,000	...	120,000.00
To be written off book value of steamers and launches	...	50,000.00
To be carried to equalisation of dividend fund	...	50,000.00
To be carried to new account	...	51,596.62
		271,596.62

\$310,039.02

31st Dec., 1900.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount brought forward from last account	...	51,580.55
30th June, 1901.		
By net earnings of steamers	...	211,136.82
By interest on investments	...	47,210.15
By transfer fees	...	111.50
		310,039.02

DEPRECIATION AND INSURANCE FUND.

30th June, 1901.	Dr.	\$ c.
To balance	...	603,000.00

31st Dec., 1900.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount at credit	...	600,000.00

EQUALISATION OF DIVIDEND FUND.

30th June, 1901.	Dr.	\$ c.
To balance	...	150,000.00

31st Dec., 1900.	Cr.	\$ c.
By amount at credit	...	30,000.00

30th June, 1901.		
By amount brought forward from profit and loss account for half-year ending 31st December, 1900	...	50,000.00
By amount transferred from investment fluctuation account	...	70,000.00
		150,000.00

E. & O. E.

T. ARNOLD, Secretary.

Hongkong, 27th July, 1901.

TEBRAU PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

A meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held on the 30th ult. at the Company's offices, Nos. 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central. There was present:—Mr. H. Humphreys (chairman), and Messrs. J. A. Jupp, W. D. Sutton, Lam Chun Pak, J. M. Wong, and W. C. Taylor (secretary).

After reading the notice convening the meeting, the CHAIRMAN addressed the shareholders as follows:—Gentlemen,—The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, I propose, with your consent, to follow the usual course and take them as read. I have very little to add to the report of the estate manager, which you have no doubt read, and nothing, I regret to say, of a reassuring or hopeful nature. A long letter has just come to hand from Mr. Larken which requires your consideration, but as any discussion bearing on it hardly comes within the scope of this meeting, I propose to hold an informal private meeting as soon as you have passed the accounts. You will notice that we have again not drawn any fees for general management. If there are any questions, I shall be glad to answer them.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. LAM CHUN PAK seconded the proposition, and it was carried *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business before the meeting.

The following is the report:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you our balance-sheet for the year ending 30th April last. We also annex the report of our Estate Manager, Mr. Larken.

The accounts have been audited in Singapore by Mr. Thomson, and in Hongkong by Mr. W. Hutton Potts.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 18th July, 1901.

Report of the Estate Manager:—

Johore, Singapore, 20th June, 1901.

The following is my report on the property for the twelve months ending 30th April:—

Gambier.—The price of gambier has been high during the past twelve months, and gave us a good profit on the amount we were able to put on the market; but, as I mentioned in my report last year, the yield of our plantations has greatly fallen off owing to the age of the plants, and therefore we did not make any considerable amount of money from our sales.

Mount Austin.—I am glad to say I found the place looking extremely well, both the coffee and rubber trees having grown fast. The earliest planted coffee trees gave a few piculs of crop in January and we shall get a good deal more in during the next two months. The trees really have quite a good crop on them for their age, and it should come in freely at the end of this year and beginning of next. The price of coffee, however, I regret to say, continues very low, and though on all sides the opinion seems to be that it must begin to rise again before long, yet at present there is no indication of its doing so.

Rubber.—Both the paras and rambongs have also grown well, and are as large for their age as could be expected, many of them measuring fourteen inches and more in girth at three feet from the ground; but, of course, as they are only a little more than three years planted it is much too soon to think of getting any rubber from them. I shall continue to plant rubbers all over the plantation, for though they take longer than coffee to give any return they will eventually prove a source of great profit if prices continue anywhere near their present level.

M. LARKEN.

The following are the accounts:—

BALANCE-SHEET

For the year ending 30th April, 1901.

Dr.	LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital account:		
10,565 fully paid up shares at \$5	...	52,825.00
8,325 fully paid up shares at \$5	...	\$41,625
Less unpaid calls on 500 shares at \$1=500	...	41,125.00
		93,950.00
Suspense account:—		
Calls paid on 1,110 shares forfeited	...	4,575.00
Bills payable	...	675.00
		\$99,200.00

Cr.	ASSETS.	\$ c.
Property account:—		
Purchase price of old Company's property	...	50,000.00
Gambier plantations since acquired	...	3,261.00
		53,261.00
"Mount Austin" Coffee Plantation Crop No. 1	...	34,357.81
Rubber plantation	...	3,980.90
Buildings	...	1,186.54
Tools	...	218.23
Cash in Hongkong & S'hai Bank	...	\$5,371.08
Cash in hand	...	8.13
Cash with Estate Manager	...	65.26
Cash with General Managers	...	400.00
		5,844.47
Profit and loss account—Balance at debit	...	351.05
		\$99,200.00

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Gambier Crop No. 4.

30th April, 1901.	\$ c.
To Millburn Gambier Factory account	1,758.36
To Gambier plantations upkeep	144.77
To proportion of estate manager's salary for one year	300.00
To balance—Profit	284.96
	\$2,488.11

30th April, 1901.	\$ c.
By sale of Gambier from Millburn	2,488.11

WORKING ACCOUNT.

1st May, 1900. Coffee Crop No. 1.	\$ c.
To balance brought forward	26,823.78
30th April, 1901.	
To wages	5,036.06
To cartage and charges	396.47
To proportion of estate manager's salary for one year	2,500.00
	\$34,836.31

30th April,	\$ c.
By proceeds of coffee sold	338.50
By balance carried forward	34,537.81
	\$34,836.31

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

1st May, 1900.	\$ c.
To amount brought forward	305.28
30th April, 1901.	
To Hongkong office charges and auditor's fees	160.05
To telegrams	8.20
To salaries	300.00
To exchange	51.01
	\$824.52

30th April, 1901.	\$ c.
By interest	188.49
By profit on Gambier Crop No. 4	284.96
By balance	351.05
	\$824.52

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY, LTD.

The fifth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on the 29th ult. at the offices of Messrs. Dodwell & Co., the General Managers. There were present, Mr. G. H. Medhurst (chairman), Messrs. E. H. Hinds, E. J. Libeaud and E. G. Barrett, (secretary).

After the reading of the notice convening the meeting by the Secretary, the CHAIRMAN addressed the shareholders as follows:—

Gentlemen,—The report and accounts have been before you some little time, and with your permission I will take them as read. During the year under review the Company's business has considerably increased, with results which I trust are satisfactory to the shareholders. I would mention that our agreement with the Home Company has been extended to cover the Philippine Islands, and we are of opinion that a good field is open there for asbestos goods, and arrangements are in progress for placing our goods on that market. Your General Managers recommend writing \$2,000 off the book value of the launch *Gladiator*, writing down the value of furniture and fittings to the nominal amount of \$150, and of placing \$3,000 to the reserve and bringing it up to \$5,000. The stock of material on hand, valued at \$46,247.81, has been verified by Mr. Brewitt, and we are satisfied as to the quality and suitability for the requirements of the trade. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions the shareholders may desire to ask.

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN moved that the reports and accounts as read be adopted.

Seconded by Mr. HINDS and carried *nem. con.*

CHAIRMAN—The next business is the election of an Auditor. Gentlemen, I move that Mr. W. Hutton Potts be re-elected as Auditor of this Company.

Seconded by Mr. HINDS and carried *nem. con.*

CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, this concludes the business of the meeting. I thank you for your attendance.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

SHORT RANGE CUP.

This competition which was started in February, and continued intermittently since, was brought to a close on the 27th ult., when Q. M. S. Wallace, R.E., by taking first place for the third time, became the winner. Undernoted are the best scores:—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	600 yds.	Handicap.	Total.
*Q. M. S. Wallace R.E.	28	32	33	—	93
*C. A. Ormsby	27	30	31	5	93
*D. "Black"	28	32	33	—	92
*J. Pidgeon	31	32	28	—	91
T. Skinner	28	32	23	10	91
J. Marshall	31	29	29	—	89
F. Sherwin	28	29	20	10	87
J. Mossop	29	33	23	—	85

* Winners of spoons.

Mr. W. Peacock, who was well-known to residents in Macao and to many in Hongkong, left Singapore for Penang at short notice on the 22nd ult. to join the Chinese Protectorate there. Mr. Peacock's place in the S.C.C. football team, says the Singapore papers, will be hard to fill, for he was one of the best men the Club had.

HONGKONG.

We hear that a prominent local shipping firm is prepared to purchase the dredger *Canton River*, after she has been repaired, provided that the price is reasonable.

The *Canton steamer Powan*, which arrived on the 27th ult., reports that a Chinaman either jumped or fell overboard during the passage from Canton, and was drowned. The body was not recovered.

We understand that all the copies of the memoranda attached to H.E. the Governor's letter conveying the recent Petition to the Secretary of State for the Colonies have been exhausted, and that a fresh supply is being printed at once.

The *Gazette* states that information has been received from H.B.M. Consul at Swatow that the Medical Officer of the Consulate has certified the port and district free from any epidemic of plague. The Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce courteously gave us the same information on the 27th ult.

The *L. & C. Express* says:—A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in August, between Marcus Warre Slade, barrister-at-law, of the Inner Temple and Hongkong, second son of the Rev. George Fitzclarence Slade, rector of Buckland, Surrey, and Isabel, eldest daughter of the Rev. H. Savill Young, rector of Englefield, Reading.

It has been brought to the notice of Captain Tulloch, R.A., Adjutant of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps in succession to Captain Pritchard, now on leave, that the signallers are very lax in their attendance, and they are accordingly requested either to attend more regularly or to withdraw their names from the class, thus making way for others who may be desirous of instruction in signalling.

Two vagrants who some time ago came before Mr. Hazeland, Police Magistrate, and requested to be sent to the House of Detention, being homeless and friendless, overstaid their daily leave from the House of Detention, got ingloriously drunk at the expense of some good-natured frequenters of a local bar, and then sailed in to wipe out the latter with some soldiers of the R.W.F. regiment. From this attempt they emerged considerably much the worse for wear.

During the 48 hours ending at noon the 29th ult. there were reported 4 fresh cases of plague (3 Chinese, one European), and 2 deaths (Chinese). The new European case of plague is Master Donald McKenzie of No 8, Morrison Hill Road, who was admitted to Kennedytown Hospital, suffering from the disease, though his attack is only a slight one. Miss Herbst, the only other European patient still in the Hospital, is doing well. 7 more cases and 7 more deaths (Chinese) have since been reported.

We have received from Mr. Mee Cheung's studio copies of two excellent photographs taken by him at Government House on Thursday, the 25th ult. One represents H.I.H. Prince Chun and H. E. Sir Henry A. Blake, seated side by side; and the other the whole party at Government House on the morning of the Prince's reception, the Prince being seated in the centre between Sir Henry and Lady Blake, while the remainder, including the Imperial suite, is grouped around. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart stands immediately behind Prince Chun. Both photographs are really excellently taken by Mr. Mee Cheung and will prove admirable mementos of a most interesting occasion.

About the end of June, the European workmen of H. M. Naval Yard petitioned Commodore F. Powell, C.B., for an increase of their salaries; one of the reasons given being that their rate of payment was inadequate to meet the heavy expenditure in house-rent, necessitating their living in close proximity to the Chinese—married men and their families being the chief sufferers. Commodore Powell, recognising the urgency of the case in regard to the epidemic of plague then raging, cabled home, and received a reply asking what increase he would recommend. After taking the opinion of the officers in the yard, the Commodore, we are informed, recommended an increase of 100 per cent. Latest advices state that the Admiralty have sanctioned an increase of 75 per cent., to date from 1st July.

A fire occurred in a cook-house at 48, Queen's Road Central on the 31st ult., but was taken in time by the Fire Brigade and subdued. The damage was trifling.

During last week the cases of communicable disease notified in the colony were:—1 plague, 19 cases (16 in Victoria), 20 deaths; enteric fever, 3 cases (2 in Victoria), no deaths. Of the enteric sufferers one was European and two were Chinese.

We are informed by the Committee of the Hongkong Cricket Club that the Interport Cricket Week has been definitely fixed for the 11th to 16th November, and these dates have been accepted by Shanghai and the Straits.

Whilst attempting to evade falling baskets of sugar at Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Company's works on Tuesday afternoon, a coolie, carrying a load at the time, fell and sustained somewhat severe injuries. He was removed to the Tung Wa Hospital.

In the quarter ending the 30th June the following samples were examined under the "Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1893":—Whisky 6, brandy 3, beer 8, bread 2, milk 6, coffee 1, tea 2. All except two samples of milk were found genuine. A footnote in the *Gazette* adds that "the eight samples of beer were free from arsenic."

The Rev. E. J. Hardy, M.A., the new Chaplain to the Forces, preached for the first time in Hongkong at the military service in St. John's Cathedral on the 28th ult. Our readers will be interested to hear that in a few weeks' time we propose to publish a series of original articles by the Rev. E. J. Hardy on "Love, Courtship, and Marriage."

A courageous disregard of self was shown on the 30th ult. by Mr. W. Armstrong, of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, who, having jumped into the water with his clothes on, rescued at the risk of his life a Chinese woman who had been steering a sampan, which the launch party to whom Mr. Armstrong belonged had in tow. The sampan capsized, and the woman was thrown into the water. The deed was certainly a plucky one.

An interesting ceremony took place at the Kowloon Docks yesterday morning when the *Meklong*, the first of two steel twin-screw steam lighters building to the order of the Norddeutscher Lloyd for river service in Bangkok, was successfully launched in the presence of a large gathering, which included Mr. Haupt, Capt. Meissel, and Mr. O. Michael, the representatives of the owners; Mrs. Meissel; Mrs. Michael; Mrs. Fernald; Mr. W. Ramsay and Capt. Innes (Superintendents for Messrs. Butterfield & Swire); Mr. Fernald (Chief Constructor, U.S.N.); Mr. R. Cooke (Acting Chief Manager of the Dock Co.); Mr. Wilson, (Manager of the Kowloon Docks), &c. The christening ceremony was gracefully performed by Miss Meissel, and the vessel glided into the water amid the cheers of the spectators. The party then adjourned to the office, where cake and wine were partaken of. Mr. Cooke toasted success to the vessel and the Norddeutscher Lloyd, which was responded to by Mr. Haupt, who referred to the excellent work turned out by the Dock Co., and wished them every success. The health of Miss Meissel was then proposed by Mr. Cooke, and Mrs. Meissel replied in a happily worded speech. The principal dimensions of the *Meklong* are—length between perpendiculars, 160 feet; breadth moulded, 27 feet; and depth moulded, 11 feet. She is designed to carry 8,000 piculs, and is capable of steaming 7½ knots per hour fully loaded.

Rear-Admiral Bayle, in command of the Southern Division of the French Squadron on the China Station, returned here on the 28th ult. on the French gunboat *Vipère* from Canton, where he had been inspecting the gunboats on the West River. He returns to the North in a day or two on the *Amiral Charner*.

The American gunboat *Don Juan de Austria* arrived from Manila on the 28th ult. and the British transport *Itala* from Calcutta. The British transports *Glengyle* and *Nevasa* departed on the 27th ult. for Calcutta.

H.M.S. *Eclipse* arrived in the harbour on the 29th ult. from Singapore. The British transport *Itala* left for Taku.

The French cruiser *Amiral Charner* left for Taku on the 30th ult.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Malay Mail* hears that Mr. Gilbert Whyte has resigned the managerhip of the Raub mines.

Among the elections to fellowships of the Royal Colonial Institute last month was that of Mr. William Taylor (Hongkong).

The Japanese Government has decided to appoint a Consul-General for the Dominion of Canada, whose headquarters will be at Montreal.

The Government of Japan is reported to have under consideration the adoption of regulations for the control of house-builders, with a view to improving the architecture and construction of Japanese houses in the large cities.

H.E. Tuan Fang, the Manchu official who was appointed last month substantive Governor of Hupoh, was expected to arrive at Wuchang from Shansi on the 21st ult., to take over the seals of the Governorship. H.E. Jen Tao-yung is not expected to take over his seals of office as Governor of Chékiang from H.E. Yü Lien-yuan, the acting Governor, until about the 1st of September next. H.E. Yü Lien-yuan, on the other hand, is said to be trying his best to resign his appointment of Treasurer of Hunan, in order to return to private life.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1901-2 lbs.	1900-1 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	—	—
Amoy and Formosa.....	157,415	76,372
Foochow	—	—
Canton	—	—
	157,415	76,372

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1901-2	1900-01
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy and Formosa.....	3,729,741	4,040,778
Foochow	—	—
	3,729,741	4,040,778

SILK.

CANTON, 19th July.—Tsatlees and Re-reels.—At present prices asked, these sorts are entirely neglected. The only business reported is a sale of 10 bales Re-reels No. 1 at \$590. Filatures.—Holders have remained firm during the fortnight although settlements have been only moderate. The 3rd crop is hardly expected to exceed that of the 2nd, and it is feared that the 4th crop-yield may be affected by the heavy floods in the producing districts. Short-reels.—Prices are slightly easier, but do not attract attention. A few sales are reported on the basis of \$700 to \$750 for Hau Kin Lón and equivalent chops. Waste.—Prices have advanced nearly 4 per cent. since last report, owing to the scarcity of stock in 5th and 6th crops' cargo. Steam Waste has been in good demand, but business is now checked by the higher rates asked.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 2nd August.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 2nd August.—A further decline in prices is reported, market being weak. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.55 to \$9.00 pol.
do. " 2, White.....	7.95 to 8.00 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ..	5.65 to 5.70 "
do. " 2, Brown ..	5.45 to 5.50 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.45 to 8.50 "
do. " 1, White.....	7.00 to 7.95 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ..	5.55 to 5.60 "
do. " 2, Brown ..	5.35 to 5.40 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.75 to 12.80 "
Shekloong "	11.55 to 11.60 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 2nd August.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.40 to 2.45
" Round, Good quality	2.50 to 2.55
" Long	2.60 to 2.70
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.45 to 2.50
Garden, " No. 1	2.30 to 2.35
" White.....	4.05 to 4.10
" Fine Cargo	4.25 to 4.30

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Sunda*, sailed on the 20th July. For Manchester:—76 bales waste silk. For London opt. Manchester:—115 bales waste silk. For London opt. Goole:—110 bales waste silk. For Lyons:—255 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—224 bales raw silk. For London:—13 cases cigars from Manila, 6 pkgs. tea from Foochow, 37 bales raw silk, 14 cases silks, 1,974 boxes tea, 20 cases bristles, 100 rolls matting, 43 cases Chinaware, 25 cases woodware, 18 cases camphorwood trunk, 1 case lacquerware, 1 case silk embd., 2 cases curios, 9 pkgs. merchandise.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 2nd August.—Bengal:—Market was very strong and prices hardened considerably. We close New Patna at \$942½, New Benares \$925, Old Patna \$965, and Old Benares \$937½.

Malwa:—A fair amount of business was done. We quote—

New.....	at \$850
2 Years.....	880
3 ".....	870
4/5 ".....	890

Persian.—Another fortnight has passed without any business. Quotations are nominally unchanged, but the tendency is downwards.

Stock.

Patna.....	2,328
Benares.....	723
Malwa.....	695½
Persian.....	2,111

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 2nd August.—Good business at steady rates. Stock about 2,500 bales.

Bombay,.....	18.00 to 19.00 piculs
Bengal (New), Rangoon, } and Dacca,.....	19.00 to 23.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese, ...	23.00 to 24.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,.....	23.00 to 24.00 "
Sale: 1,700 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 2nd August.—A strong demand from the country has set in, and a large business is in course of transaction. All desirable spot goods have been sold at a slight advance on last quotations. A heavy demand has also been experienced for goods "to arrive," and sales of upwards of 8,000 bales for long delivery have transpired. Buyers after holding off for a considerable time appear to have accepted the situation, but strenuously stand against any advance in price; importers on the other hand appear willing sellers and meeting buyers freely.

Nos. 10s. and 20s.—These counts have been largely dealt in, favourite spinnings receiving most attention. Prices have been well maintained, and here and there we see a gain of 50 cents to a dollar and a half in values over last quotations.

No. 16s.—A good demand has existed throughout, but business has been somewhat curtailed by the high prices now demanded. Best threads have advanced half to one dollar per bale, but for medium and common kinds we are unable to advise any appreciation.

No. 12s.—In moderate request at unchanged rates, but the demand is not at all general and continues to favour special spinnings.

Nos. 6s. and 8s.—Rather firmer and easily placed.

Local Manufacture.—The local Mill has advanced its selling prices by \$1 to \$2 per bale and demand for forward delivery is been, sales reported being about 2,000 bales on the basis of \$89 to \$90 for No. 10s., and \$90 to \$92 for No. 12s. Close firm.

Japanese Spinings are strong in sympathy with the home markets. In the earlier portion of the interval sales of about 500 bales were effected on the basis of \$104 to \$107 for No. 16s., and \$106 to \$109 for No. 20s.

Raw Cotton.—Business in China cotton remains conspicuous by its absence, there being no stock or arrival. Holders in the North are keeping off damage done to the new crop by recent heavy rains have been ascertained. In Indian descriptions, demand has been fairly active, and for the ordinary run of stuff the market has quieted down, but nice machine-ginned lots are scarce and for the most part firmly held. Total sales for the fortnight aggregate 1,696 bales Bengal at from \$19 to \$22.70. Japan exporters are entirely out of the market, our local Mill occasionally puts in an appearance, while the bulk of the purchases has been confined to native dealers. Stocks about 4,000 bales. Quotations are—Indian \$18 to \$22½ and Chinese \$22 to \$24.50.

Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 145 for T/T, Rs. 145½ for Post. On Shanghai 73½, and on Yokohama 6 per cent. premium.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai for the week ending 20th ultimo, viz:—

Indian.—Total sales 2,112 bales, comprising 980 bales No. 10s., 85 bales No. 12s., 202 bales No. 16s., and 755 bales No. 20s., prices remaining with little alteration as those last given and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 30,000 bales.

Japanese.—There is no change to note in the values of these spinnings, and business is limited, total sales amounting to 500 bales on the basis of Tls. 78 to 79½ for No. 16s., and Tls. 78 to 80½ for No. 20s., market closing firm.

Local.—Rates are slightly firmer and spinners are willing sellers at the improved prices, 3,000 bales being reported sold on the basis of Tls. 71½ to 73½ for No. 12s., Tls. 72 to 67 for No. 14s., and Tls. 77 to 78 for No. 16s., market closing steady.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd August.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 2,800 bales No. 10 at \$82 to \$91, 550 bales No. 12 at \$87.50 to \$91.50 500 bales No. 16 at \$96 to \$106.50, 1,500 bales No. 20 at \$101.50 to \$110. White Shirtings: 500 pieces C. at \$6.40, 250 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4.40, 3,000 pieces N. 2 at \$6.90, 250 pieces Gold Elephant at \$4.40, 300 pieces N. Z. at \$6.90. Long Ells: 125 pieces 8 lbs. Purple Stag at \$7.25. Grey Shirtings: 500 pieces 10 lbs. Stags at \$4.55. Drills: 600 pieces 14 lbs. Cock Fight at \$3.75.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$74.00 to \$111.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece.
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.10 to 2.15
7 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30
8.4 lbs.	2.70 to 3.30
9 to 10 lbs.	3.35 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.35 to 2.60
58 to 60 "	3.00 to 3.90
64 to 66 "	4.00 to 5.50
Fine.....	5.10 to 7.40
Book-folds.....	4.10 to 6.10
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.72 to 1.20
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.60 to 1.80
7lbs. (32 ").....	1.85 to 2.15
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	1.80 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ").....	2.70 to 3.35
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.75 to 3.30
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to } 16 lbs.	4.00 to 6.75

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to } 8 lbs.	1.55 to 5.00
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Brocades—Dyed.....

	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.00
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....

0.30 to 2.50	per dozen
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WOOLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet.....

	per piece
Assorted.....	6.40 to 10.00
Camlets—Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
Orleans—Plain.....	8.00 to 20.00

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.

4.00 to 18.00	per pair
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METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod.....	4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.).....	4.25 to —
Swedish Bar.....	6.25 to —
Small Round Rod.....	4.65 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.00 to —
Wire 15/25.....	7.50 to —
Old Wire Rope.....	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop.....	8.15 to —
Australian.....	7.95 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	40.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Composition Nails.....	63.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	42.00 to —
Tin.....	69.25 to —

Tin-Plate.....	7.25 to —
Steel ½ to ¾.....	per cwt, case 5.75 to —
New Chops 14/20 oz.	to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver.....	per picul 163.50 to —
Window Glass.....	per box. 6.00 to —
Kerosene Oil.....	per 10-gal. case 2.15 to —

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 2nd August.—A healthier tone has been noticeable in our market during the period under review, and a fair business has been transacted in most of the principal stocks.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled quiet, and sales of small parcels at 392½ and 390 per cent. premium only are reported. The market closes steady at the higher rate. Nationals and Bank of China are unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—North China have been placed at Tls. 175. Other stocks under this heading are quiet and unchanged at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have been sold and are obtainable at \$345. China Fires are quiet at \$84.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at the improved rate of \$36, at which further shares are probably obtainable. Indo-Chinas after sales at \$140 are obtainable at the rate. China Mutuals are on offer at \$62. Douglasses have sold and can be purchased at \$54. Star Ferries continue in strong demand at \$24 and \$9 for the old and new shares respectively. China Mutuals and Shell Transports are unchanged at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have risen rapidly from \$139 to \$144, at which rates sales have been effected, and the market closes with further enquiries. Luzons are on offer at \$36.

MINING.—Punjoms have been placed at \$5½ and \$6, and there are sellers at the latter rate. Jelebus are wanted at \$4. Ranhs have been done at \$12½ to \$13. Olivers are quoted nominal only. Charbonnages are quiet at \$325.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have improved their position, and sales up to \$305 are reported; also at \$320 for December delivery. The market closes with buyers at \$305 cash. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharfs have receded under the influence of pressure to sell, and could probably be obtained at \$100. New Amoy Docks continue in request at \$24.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have continued in steady request, and are still wanted at \$192 ex dividend. Kowloon Lands are quiet at \$3½. West Points are weak and obtainable at \$51 ex dividend. Hongkong Hotels have been sold at \$129 and \$130, and more shares are obtainable at the latter rate. Oriente Hotels are on offer at \$65. Humphreys' Estates are in the market at \$13 after sales at that rate and \$12½.

COTTON MILLS.—There is no material change in the quotations for the Northern stocks, which are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars to hand. Hongkong Cottons have sold and continue in request at \$10½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Manila Investments have declined to \$50 sellers. Green Island Cements have been dealt in largely at \$21, and the demand continues. Hongkong Electric (old) have been in strong demand, and sales have been reported up to \$12½, at which there are further buyers. The new shares have sold and are wanted at \$6. Watsons are in the market at \$16. Hongkong and China Gas Co. shares have improved to \$140 buyers. Ropes have declined to \$72½ sellers. Ices are wanted at \$181 ex dividend. Tramways are still in demand and can be placed at \$275. Steam Water Boats have sold and are in request at \$8. United Asbestos are on offer at \$10½ ex dividend. China Providents are obtainable at \$9½. Tobacco Trusts have weakened, and are now to be had at \$50.

MEMOS.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 6th instant. Hongkong and

Shanghai Banking Corporation, ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 17th instant, transfer books closed from the 3rd instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders on the 19th instant; transfer books closed from the 5th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ 392½ p.ct. prem. = \$615.82½, sellers. L'don, £61. 1's.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	15s.
Do. deferred	£1	5. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$28, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$28, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1.10.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$38, sellers.
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$143½, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$1,500, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 42½, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 40, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 300, sellers
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 15, sellers
Hongkong	\$100	\$10½, sales & buyers
Dairy Farm	\$8	\$8, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$21½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$275, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$130, sales & sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$181, ex div., buys.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$100.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$172½, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$305, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$84.
China Traders'	\$25	\$60, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$345, sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 175, sales
Straits	\$20	nominal.
Union	\$50	\$340, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$125.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$192, ex div., buys.
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$13.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30.
West Point Building	\$50	\$51, ex div., sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$36, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$325.
Jelebu	\$5	\$4, buyers
Queen's Mines, Ltd.	25c.	4 cents, sales
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	nominal.
Do. B.	\$4½	nominal.
Punjom	\$9	\$6, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1½.
Raub's	18	\$12½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$24, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$65, sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50, nominal
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$32, sales
China Mutual Prof.	\$40	\$40.
China Ordinary	£10	£12.
Do.	£5	£7.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$54, sellers
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$36, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$140, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£2. 12s. 6d. buys.
Star Ferry	\$10	{ \$21, buyers \$9, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10½, ex div., sells.
Do.	\$10	\$15, ex div.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19½, buyers
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	nominal.
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10½.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16, sellers
W. Powell & Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$1½, nominal

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 24th July (From Messrs. J. P. Bissot & Co.'s Report). **BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Shares sold locally at 398 per cent. prem. and are offering. Settlements were made for August at 407.50 per cent. and 402.60 per cent., for September at 410 per cent., 407.50 per cent., and 405 per cent., and for October at 415 per cent. **INSURANCE.**—Marine.—Yangtszes changed hands at \$125; other stocks unchanged. Fire.—No business reported. **SHIPPING.**—Indo-China S. N. Co.—Cash shares were placed at Tls. 110 and 109 (cum div. of Tls. 7.56—£1. 0s. 0d. at ex. 2s. 7½d. paid on 23rd inst.) locally. Settlements were made for October at Tls. 114 and 114.50 locally cum div., and for November at Tls. 116. China Merchants' S. N. Co. shares were placed at Tls. 165 to 167.50 and later at 165 and are offering. China Mutual S. N. Co. £5 paid up ordinary shares sold at £5. 5s. 0d. Douglas Steamboat shares changed hands at \$54. **SUGARS.**—Peraks are offering. **MINING.**—Raub's are offering. Kaiping Mine market has been active with cash sales up to Tls. 317.50, closing at 312.50. Settlements were made for 31st inst. at 315, for October at 330, for November at 337.50, and for December at 340. **DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ltd. Cash market early in the week rose to Tls. 365, Tls. 265 but has receded to sales at 255 with further buyers. Settlements were made for 31st inst., at Tls. 265, 255, 260, and 255, for September 272.50, 262.50, 265 and 270, for October 277.50 and 270, for November 272.50 and 275. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 305 for cash and 31st inst. **LANDS.**—Shanghais sold at Tls. 100 and are wanted. Humphreys Estate shares were placed at \$13.50 and 13. **INDUSTRIAL.**—Gus & Major Bros. shares are wanted. In Cotton Mills Yah Loongs sold at Tls. 15, 17.50 and 15 and are offering, as well as Ewos, Internationals, and Soy Chess. Ice shares changed hands at Tls. 32 and 30. Flour Mills are offering. Moutrie and Co. shares were placed at \$80 and are offering. Green Island Cement shares sold at \$20.25 and are offering. **TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.**—Cargo Boat shares were settled at Tls. 130 for 15th August and at 132.50 and 135 for 31st August; shares are offering. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—Waterworks shares are wanted. Sumatra Tobacco shares sold at Tls. 47.50 for August delivery. Langkat Tobacco Co. At a meeting of shareholders held on 22nd inst., it was decided to increase the capital of the Company by the issue of 2,000 new shares at par, subject to a confirmatory meeting called for 13th August. Shares are steady at Tls. 365, at which rate transactions for cash and 31st inst., are reported. Settlements were made for August at Tls. 370, for September at Tls. 375, and for December at Tls. 390. Horse Bazaar and Hall and Holtz shares wanted. Central Store shares sold up to \$27.50, closing with sales at 25 and further sellers. **MERCURY, Ltd.** shares are wanted. Tsingtau Hotels were placed at \$105 and are offering. Telephone shares changed hands at Tls. 60. Astor House Hotel Co., Ltd. The extension of present lease of hotel site for a thirty years' period is announced, as well as the acquirement of the property at the rear of the hotel block, on which it is intended to promptly commence an extension of the premises. Shares changed hands at \$200 and are wanted. **DEBENTURES.**—Shanghai Land Investment Co.'s 5 per cent. were sold at Tls. 95, 6 per cent. at Tls. 102, and Shanghai Club 6 per cent. at Tls. 102, all cum accrued interest.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 2nd August.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.43
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.46½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.97
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145
Bank, on demand	145½

ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145
Bank, on demand	145½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	73½
Private, 30 days' sight	74
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	9
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	3
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	4
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	116½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1½
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.25
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	53.25
BAR SILVER per oz.	26½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 2nd August.—Freights continue as last reported. Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul is obtainable for medium sized carriers; to one port north coast Java, 32 cents per picul last and more tonnage might be placed at this figure; to Philippines, 41 cents per picul. Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul has been paid for dry and 40 cents per picul wet sugar. Newchwang to Canton, 34 cents per picul. Coal freights.—Moji to Hongkong, \$2.40; to Singapore, \$2.60 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The British barque *Launberga*, 1,215 tons, has been chartered to load here for Baltimore, rate private.

The following are the settlements:—

Launberga—British barque, 1,215 tons, hence to Baltimore, private terms.
Glenroy—British steamer, 3,141 tons, Otaru to Hongkong, \$3.25 per ton.
Taicheong—German steamer, 837 tons, Hongay to Saigon, \$3.16 per ton.
Auchenarden—British steamer, 2,351 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.
Tingsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, two trips, Hongay to Swatow, \$2.40 per ton.
Elsa—German steamer, 1,692 tons, Hongay to Swatow, \$2.40 per ton.
Nanchang—British steamer, 1,063 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 34 cents per picul (22,000 piculs).
Pakshan—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 18 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
Decima—German steamer, 704 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.
Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.
Marie Jensen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.
 An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to one port Philippines (35,000 piculs), 40 cents per picul.
Taicheong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 43 cents per picul.
Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Saigon to one port 40 cents, two ports Philippines, 43 cents per picul.
Cassius—German steamer, 1,027 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 35 cents per picul (33,000 piculs).
Marie Jensen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 34 cents per picul.
Gloucester City—British steamer, 1,400 tons, Saigon to two ports north coast Java, 33 cents per picul.
Petrarch—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to one or two ports north coast Java, 32 and 34 cents per picul.
Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,109 tons, Saigon to Tjilatjap and three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, \$26,000 in full.
Nanyang—German steamer, 1,660 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 33 cents, option Penang, 39 cents per picul.
Gloucester City—British steamer, 1,400 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong (dry sugar), 25 cents per picul.
Elsa—German steamer, 1,692 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$10,000 per month.
Taiyu—German steamer, 1,065 tons, monthly, about 5½ months, \$9,000 per month (re-charter).

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—*Sado Maru* (str.), *Kawachi Maru* (str.).
 FOR LONDON.—*Peleus* (str.), *Bengal* (str.), *Malacca* (str.), *Deucalion* (str.), *Stentor* (str.), *Sado Maru* (str.), *Kawachi Maru* (str.).
 FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Patroclus* (str.).
 FOR MARSEILLES.—*Sado Maru* (str.), *Malacca* (str.), *Eridan* (str.), *Kawachi Maru* (str.).
 FOR BREMEN.—*Stuttgart* (str.), *Acilia* (str.).
 FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Acilia* (str.), *Alexandria* (str.), *Siberia* (str.), *Andalusia* (str.), *Arabia* (str.).
 FOR TRAPPE.—*Melpomene* (str.).
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Tacoma* (str.), *Yangtze* (str.), *Tosa Maru* (str.), *Kamakura Maru* (str.).
 FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.), *Tartar* (str.).
 FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Hongkong Maru* (str.), *China* (str.), *Flintshire* (str.).
 FOR NEW YORK.—*Hudson* (str.), *Arara* (str.), *L. Schepp*, *I. F. Chapman*, *Manuel Llaguno*, *Aragonia* (str.).
 FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—*Knight Companion* (str.).
 FOR SAN DIEGO.—*Strathgyle* (str.).
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Guthrie* (str.).
 FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—*Bornida* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

July—

28, *Vipers*, French gunboat, from Canton.
 29, *Woosung*, British str., from Canton.
 29, *Apenrade*, German str., from Pakhoi.
 29, *Bombay*, British str., from London.
 29, *Kong Peng*, British str., from Bangkok.
 29, *Oceanien*, French str., from Marseilles.
 29, *Flintshire*, British str., from Moji.
 29, *Eclipse*, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 29, *Salahadji*, Dutch str., from Pulo Sambo.
 29, *Petrarch*, German str., from Manila.
 30, *Hipsang*, British str., from Moji.
 30, *Empress of China*, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 30, *Tamba Maru*, Jap. str., from Singapore.
 30, *Yuensang*, British str., from Manila.
 30, *Benvenue*, British str., from London.
 30, *Wingsang*, British str., from Shanghai.
 30, *Hailoong*, British str., from Hoihow.
 30, *Mogul*, British str., from London.
 30, *Obi*, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 30, *Onsang*, British str., from Moji.
 31, *Hanoi*, French str., from Haiphong.
 31, *Holstein*, German str., from Singapore.
 31, *Loongmoon*, German str., from Shanghai.
 31, *Mara Kolb*, German str., from Moji.
 31, *Taicheong*, German str., from Mauritius.
 31, *Telemachus*, British str., from Saigon.
 31, *Thales*, British str., from Swatow.
 31, *Victoria*, Swedish str., from Sourabaya.
 31, *Sullberg*, German str., from Canton.
 31, *S. Rickmers*, Brit. str., from Newchwang

August—

1, *J. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 1, *Quarta*, German str., from Chinkiang.
 1, *Lightning*, British str., from Calcutta.
 1, *Tetartos*, German str., from Java.
 1, *Whampoa*, British str., from Shanghai.
 1, *Hong Bee*, British str., from Straits.
 1, *Victoria*, American str., from Tacoma.
 2, *Bengal*, British str., from Shanghai.
 2, *Massilia*, British str., from London.
 2, *Kaiserin Elisabeth*, Aust. cr., from Chefoo.
 2, *Zenta*, Austrian cruiser, from Chefoo.
 2, *Devawongse*, German str., from Bangkok.
 2, *Tantalus*, British str., from London.
 2, *Kwanglee*, British str., from Canton.
 2, *Fooksang*, British str., from Newchwang.
 2, *Germania*, German str., from Bangkok.
 2, *Pigmy*, British gunboat, from a cruise.

July—

DEPARTURES.

29, *Annam*, French str., for Europe.
 29, *Itola*, British transport, for Taku.
 29, *Hinsang*, British str., for Hongay.
 22, *Thales*, British str., for Swatow.
 29, *Lyeemoon*, German str., for Shanghai.
 29, *Oceanien*, French str., for Shanghai.
 29, *Stentor*, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, *Amiral Charner*, French cr., for Taku.
 30, *Charterhouse*, British str., for Amoy.
 30, *Clam*, British str., for Shanghai.
 30, *Gloucester City*, British str., for Saigon.
 30, *Laisang*, British str., for Yokohama.

30, *Ness*, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 30, *Daybreak*, American str., for Shanghai.
 30, *S. V. Langkat*, Dut. str., for Pulo Sambo.
 30, *Elita Nossack*, German str., for Shanghai.
 30, *Progress*, German str., for Touron.
 30, *Tailee*, German str., for Swatow.
 30, *Trym*, Norwegian str., for Haiphong.
 31, *Kwanglee*, British str., for Canton.
 31, *Woosung*, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, *Gloucester City*, British str., for Saigon.
 31, *Clara*, German str., for Hoihow.
 31, *Apenrade*, German str., for Haiphong.
 31, *Bombay*, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, *Chelydra*, British str., for Calcutta.
 31, *Diamante*, British str., for Manila.
 31, *Glanogle*, British str., for Tacoma.
 31, *Wingsang*, British str., for Canton.
 31, *Daphne*, German str., for Nagasaki.
 31, *P. C. C. Klao*, British str., for Bangkok.
 31, *Maria*, Austrian str., for Moji.
 31, *Anping Maru*, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 31, *Hongkong*, French str., for Hoihow.
 31, *Eclipse*, British cruiser, for a cruise.
 31, *Daphne*, British sloop, for a cruise.
 31, *Pigmy*, British gunboat, for a cruise.

August—

1, *Sullberg*, German str., for Chefoo.
 1, *Tamba Maru*, Japanese str., for Japan.
 1, *Sandakan*, German str., for Sandakan.
 1, *Tsuruhiko Maru*, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 1, *Loongmoon*, German str., for Canton.
 1, *Quarta*, German str., for Canton.
 1, *Sabine Rickmers*, British str., for Canton.
 2, *Hailoong*, British str., for Swatow.
 2, *Yuensang*, British str., for Manila.
 2, *Benvenue*, British str., for Nagasaki.
 2, *Hanoi*, French str., for Haiphong.
 2, *Taksang*, British str., for Bangkok.
 2, *Obi*, British str., for Moji.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Itola*, from Calcutta, Major Hodgson.
 Per *Annam*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Dandaling and Letort.
 Per *Kwanglee*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Azemdo, Misses Azemdo (2), and Miss Dora Humphreys.
 Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Hanna, Mrs. R. E. Manley, Misses E. Stewart and V. Tullis, Rev. J. G. Paterson, Messrs. F. T. Clark, C. Wittmuss and O. Gumprecht.
 Per *Bombay*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. Gillman; from Penang, Mr. Steward; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. Howard.
 Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong, from Singapore, Mr. J. C. Judah; from Saigon, Messrs. Barlon, Michon, and Bouteille, Drs. Adolphe Turlin and Louis Osseray; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. Malhene, D. de Lasgreze, and Berougon, Revs. Debock, Vandavere, Lauvers, and Verstraelin; from Port Said, Mrs. Braunstein; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Camasy, Mrs. Fany Daian, and Mr. J. Kaiser; from Singapore, Consul and Mrs. Besse De Moulieres and infant; from Saigon, Mr. and Mrs. Schiller and child, Messrs. Henri de Hees and Montseri Zerini; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Messrs. A. Cabourer, Sanz de Blorr, and Takinouchi; from Singapore, Mr. Uyem Ulah; from Saigon, Mr. C. Chase.
 Per *Hailoong*, from Hoihow, Mr. and Mrs. Judell.
 Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, Mrs. C. H. Errington, Messrs. T. J. Smith, J. T. Wright, W. S. Kahnweiler, Thos. E. Evans, and Dr. A. C. Lambert; from Yokohama, Mrs. A. H. Rennie, Mrs. J. J. Coats, Mrs. S. Robinson, Lieuts. P. H. Campbell, G. B. Thornhill and H. A. Lewis, Cpts. W. Bland, G. Duff, and A. Tillett, Messrs. J. T. Plummer and F. C. Wilford; from Kobe, Judge and Mrs. Lamme, Messrs. A. H. Rennie, G. M. Leishman, W. Willner, and Lieut. A. C. J. Stevens; from Nagasaki, Messrs. J. Molloy and W. Stuart Harrison; from Shanghai, Mr. Oppenheim and Dr. A. S. Knudson.
 Per *Tamba Maru*, from London, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Watson, Messrs. James Robertson, Charles Blake, N. Atsuzawa, W. N. Richardson, and R. Crawford; for Kobe, Messrs. U. Sugi and K. Shimidzu; for Yokohama, Miss J. Brand, Messrs. S. E. Brand, T. Date, Hermans Bosch, S. Kondo, K. Kamio, Y. Tsutsui, N. Toriyama, and R. Miyake.
 Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Rev. Goodman Johnson and Mr. Atenza.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Godehaun, Miss Godehaun, Mr. and Miss Gibb, Messrs. J. Younger, C. B. Burt, C. Clausen, J. H. Holden, and J. B. Martin; Theatre Company—Messrs. J. F. Finlay, W. A. Davis, L. H. Drakeford, W. F. Cullen, W. A. Horley, M. H. Bronson, and S. Rowley, Misses P. Verne, B. Ward, V. Rosser, E. Linwood, L. Linwood, L. Ford, A. Moore, and R. Moore.

Per *Whampoa*, from Shanghai, &c., Captain McIntosh.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. and Miss A. Apcar, Messrs. W. E. Vaughan, Judah, Johnstone, Brothers Joshua and Felix.

DEPARTED.

Per *Australian*, from Hongkong, for Timor, Mrs. M. Guimaraes, Capt. J. Costa Cabral, Masters Heis and Manuel, Sisters Joaquim, Fernandes, Lomano, Baptista, and seven soldiers; for Thursday Island, Mr. H. N. C. Douglas; for Brisbane, Mr. C. Stockwell; for Sydney, Dr. and Mrs. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Beattie and two children, Mrs. Osborne, Misses N. Roberts and Una, Messrs. E. Grainger and Mailler; for Melbourne, Mrs. Knowles, Misses Krull and Bronet.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. A. R. Morris, A. Bagnall, M. Kito and Kelly Rainburn; for Penang, Messrs. R. A. Brown and A. Simon; for Port Said, Mrs. Haas and five children; for Marseilles, Lieut. A. G. Branco Martins, Rev. Carmo Mattos and Messrs. M. Moscovitch, Midzuro, Yoshimura, Hachio and Itaya; for London, Messrs. Henry Wiseman, Thos. McG. Bryce, J. Johnson, A. Miller, J. Surugi and R. Huga.

Per *Yawala Maru*, from Hongkong, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Rodgers and three children, Mrs. Towar, Mrs. Cochen, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Arthur, Mrs. Heisman, Mrs. Slavens, Mrs. Date and two children, Misses Thompson, M. Thompson, Messrs. W. H. Lawrence, Alex. Ross, E. Kaufmann, T. Morita, K. Miura, Seaman, Anderson, P. O. Rothrock and Hill; for Australian Ports, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Gaunt, Mr. and Mrs. Ray and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Michie, Mr. and Mrs. Atherton, Capt. and Mrs. Bancroft, Mrs. W. J. Russel, Mrs. Elwyn, Misses Aubusson and Bracker, Messrs. S. E. Thiel, W. S. Kylie, J. Cullinane, C. E. Blair, S. Boyce, F. A. Hyland, C. Asano, S. Saito and Blake.

Per *Shanghai*, from Hongkong, for London, Captain W. A. Harris, R.M.L.I., and 120 Troops, Gunner William Barlow, R.M., Boatswain William Hazelgrove, R.N., and Lieut. and Mrs. Brandreath, R.N.

Per *Annam*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Mrs. Lorenzen, Mrs. Mechling, Mrs. L. Delpy, Mrs. Favennec and Mrs. M. Bennecke; for Singapore, Messrs. J. Sabater, R. Kellar, M. Starberg, and R. Hernandez; for Colombo, Capt. B. Vincent; for Port Said, Miss M. Lefevre; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Brias and son, Miss Brias, Messrs. A. Meurer, F. Olbes, Roudot, A. Nee, Huland, Turpin, L. Eudes, C. Lamare, and Lieut. Delage.

Per *Oceanien*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. F. Allan, Mrs. K. Kin, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Maclean, Lieuts. L. Chaumont and de la Planche de Ruille, Messrs. J. G. Mackenzie, J. Gow, and I. Benjamin; for Nagasaki, Mr. C. Witmuss, Mr. and Mrs. Masugata; for Yokohama, Mrs. Hagen and three children, Mrs. H. M. Collins, and Mr. D. W. Salter.

Per *Diamante*, for Manila, Mrs. C. H. Errington, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lamme, Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Hanna, Misses B. M. Gertach, McEvoy, E. Stewart, M. V. Tuller, Lieut. A. M. Proctor, U.S.N., Rev. M. Urbano, Messrs. E. Mingues, J. Alindogan, R. E. Manly, W. Willner, F. T. Clark, R. Van Deventer, J. del Rosario, McNeal, V. Pouzon, H. F. R. Brayne, and S. S. Benjamin, Miss C. Eichbaum, Mrs. Kichi Mura and Mrs. S. Isonaga.

Per *Tamba Maru*, for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Bryan, Messrs. W. H. Richardson, G. Emma, F. M. Kingsell, B. Jameson, N. Akusawa, R. Yamauchi, Y. Baba, J. Katsumata, and H. Katsumata.

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